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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH 2015

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Police appeal for witnesses after a fatal collision in the town

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, following a fatal collision in Barry on Saturday morning.

It took place on Merthyr Dyfan Road, near the junction with Merthyr Dyfan Court, at 10.25am.

A Mercedes Sprinter van collided with a concrete central reservation. The ambulance service confirmed that a man had died and that a second man had received treatment. The man who died was named as Mr Christopher Harry Barnfield, aged 70, from Abergavenny. The police are keen to speak to any witnesses.

If someone saw something or has more information, they are asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit at Gwaelod y Garth on 101; or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

On November 20, All Saints Primary School had a day reflecting on the theme of friendship. Prayers were also said for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris and for their families.

SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

'TIS THE SEASON OF GOODWILL TO ALL MEN...

A man well known for his voluntary work in the town has been touched by the honesty of a mystery member of the public.

Jack Hardman (86) enjoys making trips down to the Island with his wife and last Sunday they parked the car near The Dolphin and used a mobility scooter to get about.

Jack said: "We wanted to have a look at the new work along the Eastern Promenade. Afterwards, at about 11 o'clock we went to Marco's where I paid for coffees and sticky buns."

The couple then returned to their car and made their way home to Wenvoe Terrace.

"When we arrived home, a neighbour told us that a lady had been and put my wallet through the door. It had £90 in it – and medical cards containing vital information. I contacted The GEM because I was keen to highlight the kindness of this lady."

Jack had lost the wallet at Marco's and hadn't even realised. It amazed him that it arrived home before he did!

Lee to light up Holton Road!

BARRY'S world boxing champion Lee Selby will switch on the town's Christmas lights this Saturday, November 28.

Organisers are hoping that more than 2,000 people will attend the event in King Square.

Lee seemed the obvious choice for the accolade, after becoming IBF World Featherweight Champion in May this year.

The day starts at 10am with the market, complete with crafts, gifts, face painting, lots of food – and Santa!

Events on the square are due to start at 12pm, with bands and Bro Radio to get everyone in the festive mood.

The light show is due to start from 5pm.

In another coup for the Vale of Glamorgan, Llantwit Major's lights will be switched on by Welsh World Cup hero Dan Biggar on the same day.

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• ***LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER***

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Petition, not politicians, made the difference!'

IT is quite extraordinary how politicians seek to claim the credit for work done by others.

In last week's GEM, the item *'Cemetery Approach: gardens plan taking shape'*, gives the impression that Coun Shirley Hodges and other Plaid Cymru councillors played a key role in saving Cemetery Approach from inappropriate housing development.

Nothing could be further from the truth – an 11,300-signature petition gathered by members of the Save Cemetery Approach Action Group, supported by the people of Barry, finally persuaded the developers to throw in the towel.

The action group, led by Dennis Harkus, also provided hard evidence that the land had been given to local people by the British Government as open space. This persuaded the Vale Council to reverse their original consent.

The developers then lodged an appeal, which they withdrew in the face of almost total opposition by the townspeople.

Yes, Plaid Cymru councillors did oppose the housing plan, but played no part in gathering names for the petition or in the presenting of solid evidence which persuaded the developers to finally pull out.

With regard to the proposed community garden, local people – not just councillors and unelected officers – MUST have a say in its development. To deny this right would be disgraceful.

Derek Hooper, Barry,
Secretary and Press Officer, Save Cemetery Approach Action Group.

Llantwit lights: *'letter incorrect'*

I REFER to a letter in The GEM last week from D J Radford, of Barry, claiming that the street lights are not out in Llantwit Major like other parts of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Mr Radford needs to get his facts straight: Llantwit Major is treated like everywhere else in the Vale with part-time lighting.

The lights are out from midnight until 6am, unless the police or ambulance service have asked for them to be left on at any junction or area where there have been accidents or issues in the past.

The statement from Mr Radford is incorrect and mischief-making.

I would like to invite Mr Radford to meet me and my officers to discuss the many issues he has raised with the council in the local press and we will answer his complaints.

If Mr Radford offers me some dates, I will be pleased to meet him.

Coun Gwyn John,
Llantwit Major.

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'Conservatives vocal in opposing threats to DNA of Vale villages'

FOLLOWING a letter from a Vale councillor to The GEM last week, I wanted to clarify a couple of points for GEM readers.

Irrespective of the colour of the council at the civic offices in Barry – be it red, blue, green or purple – unfortunately, demands for housing, traveller sites and the like are currently dictated by the Welsh Labour Government in Cardiff Bay.

The Welsh Government's planning department stipulates the requirements for the Vale of Glamorgan and the blame for the ridiculous figures, be it for housing or the proposed traveller site in Sully, lies firmly at the door of the Welsh Labour Government.

We have been vocal in opposing the numerous sites across the Vale that have witnessed proposals containing some astronomical figures which threaten the very DNA of our villages.

We have also been steadfast in our opposition to the gypsy and traveller site in Sully.

However, the fact remains, the Vale Council's hands are currently tied by the dictating from the centre by Welsh Government Ministers.

Next May, Vale residents can have their say as these proposals will be put to the ballot box. The Welsh Conservatives have outlined our plans to remove this form of diktat governing, putting power where it belongs – in the hands of local communities.

If these Welsh Government technical advice notes, known as TANs, are not followed, the Vale Council opens itself up to claims for costs if decisions are appealed.

Nevertheless, we will continue to work with the community council in Sully and those directly affected by these appalling plans to ensure the Vale Council and Welsh Government are abundantly aware that this traveller site is not wanted by local residents.

And the ultimate irony in all of this, don't forget, is that if council reorganisation proceeds, these figures and demands become redundant and the Vale returns to the drawing board... with potentially far worse consequences as a dormitory for Cardiff.

Andrew RT Davies AM,
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives and South Wales Central AM.

'Cycle path has created hazard'

WE have recently moved into The Quays new residential site, having initially been attracted to the area by its location and the obvious regeneration and new investment that is taking place.

However, we have been quite concerned and perplexed at some aspects of the regeneration which do not seem to have gone to plan.

In particular, the time it has taken to open the Barry Link road from the ASDA site; but also, while the new road is still on-going, the council has decided to embark on a designated cycle path on the main road to Barry, which seems to be causing unnecessary upheaval.

While we applauded the idea of making a safe route into Barry for cyclists, it appears that the council has created a hazard for motorists and particularly pedestrians.

The pavements are in a shocking state and are presumably in line to be replaced; the barrier system used is very difficult to see and narrow in places; and then, to top it all, someone has had the excellent idea that the street lights should be turned off at a certain time, in order to save energy.

In doing so, this makes the route an accident waiting to happen!

Why create such havoc on a very busy route for everyone concerned before the new road is opened? This would obviously alleviate the situation.

Come on guys, get your act together.

Chris and Lesley Marriott,
Barry.

Potholes like pits in Vale!

MAGGIE THATCHER was supposed to have closed all, or most, of the pits in this country; well, now it seems they have opened up again in our streets and main roads all over the Vale!

I live on the east end of Crossways Street, Barry, which is quite a busy road, but around the corner in Basset Street, it's even worse – I can't speak for other areas,

Now the council in their infinite wisdom have turned the street lighting off at night, making this problem a health and safety issue; not only claims for damage to vehicles, you will have accident claims for persons tripping on these potholes.

It is about time the people responsible for road maintenance got off their comfortable chairs and had a look for themselves.

I expect they spent some time looking at the white elephant scheme building the walkway/cycle path in Wenvoe.

Is that where all of the surplus tarmac went, instead of the pothole repairs?

Mr B Kirke, Barry.

Why dig up cycle path?

FURTHER to The GEM letter about the Barry Island cycle path, I have written before about the waste of ratepayers' money on these projects.

Can somebody in the council tell me, and the ratepayers of the Vale, why the existing cycle path from the crematorium to the top of the link road has been dug up and is now being replaced? I think the answer is that it would be aesthetically pleasing when it joins the new section.

I am sure all the drivers on that road who are being held up, really appreciate this decision! There has been no reply from the Vale, also, over how much this is costing in total.

The roadway alongside this bike lane/pedestrian walkway is atrocious.

Paul Blanchard,
Barry.

'Knowing your enemy is the way to defeat him'

IT is not enough for us to track down and neutralise present Isis murderers – in order to defeat the ideas in their head, which they might well pass on to others, it is essential to understand them.

Because you detest them, is no reason not to understand them.

That intimate knowledge of their motives, is our necessary first defence for the future.

It appears that western leaders only react as they guess how the western media will present the facts to their own population – like goodies and baddies in a cowboy film – all to establish the iron grip of media magnates over the minds of millions.

The Syrian war has been dragging on, sponsored by its more powerful backers, for four years. The correct time for the US, UK, France, and most hopefully, the EU, to discuss that Syrian war with Russia and Iran, was four years ago – before it became more intractable.

Not liking Russia and Iran, is all the more reason to engage them in negotiation, for the obvious reason that destructive war cannot actually serve the best interest of any of the nations who are using factions in Syria as their own client force.

Foreign policy must always mean negotiating with nations whose interests are different from your own, rather than grandstanding for the applause of the TV public back home, who always see violence to one lot as the best answer to violence from another lot.

Any fool can get agreement from your allies.

Responsible politicians overcome hostility in enemies.

Neville Westerman,
Brynna.

'Religions have run their course'

IN response to the article written by Dr Altaf Hussein AM who stated that multiculturalism has run its course, I believe that all man-made religions have run their course.

Religions have been responsible for the slaughtering of non-believers, torture, persecution, abuse of children, the suppression of women, witch hunts, mistreatment or stoning of unmarried pregnant girls, forcing poor families to produce more babies they cannot feed, and the destruction of spiritual communities such as the Cathars in France. All in the name of God!

None of the above applies to Buddhism, which I believe is a philosophy, not a religion.

Diane Mitchell,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	06.13	10.4	18.37	10.5
27 Fri	06.58	10.4	19.23	10.3
28 Sat	07.41	10.2	20.05	10.0
29 Sun	08.26	10.0	20.49	9.8
30 Mon	09.07	9.7	21.29	9.2
01 Tues	09.49	9.3	22.11	8.7
02 Wed	10.33	8.6	22.59	8.2
03 Thur	11.24	8.1	23.58	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Barry woman receives award for her social care work

A BARRY healthcare professional currently on maternity leave following the birth of her first child, has been honoured at this year's Wales Care Awards.

Sarah Jackson, the estates manager at Cardiff-based Ludlow Street Healthcare, was named Social Care Health & Safety gold winner at the ceremony staged at Cardiff City Hall and received her award from Ralph Baldwin, managing director of A Baldwin & Company which sponsored the category.

Sarah, who lives at Churchfields, in Barry, gave birth to son Joseph in September so she relished the opportunity to enjoy the glittering evening that has been dubbed the 'social care Oscars'.

It was a lovely, lovely night," she said. "There were some amazing stories and it was nice to see so many people there all sharing the same cause.

"I've never won anything in my life before so I was completely surprised and happy to be named gold winner, an award that was as much for my team as for me."

It won't be long before Sarah returns to work in the New Year, but during her maternity leave she has continued to keep in close touch with her colleagues.

She added: "Joseph is brilliant and he'll be going off to nursery in the New Year when I go back to work. We are enjoying our time together at the moment, but it will soon be back to business as usual."

In her role as estates manager Sarah is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Ludlow Street's existing three hospitals, 14 community homes and a residential college that provide specialist care, education and treatment services for individuals with complex and enduring mental health needs.

She was nominated for her award by Ludlow Street development director Christine Lovell, who was also a winner at the City Hall event, after being named a joint gold recipient in the outstanding service category.

Ms Lovell said: "We miss her while she is on leave but she is always on the end of the phone if there is a matter of some urgency to resolve and she always delivers.

"Sarah is a very hands-on person but she also has the skills to work with our service users when she goes on the units and she's always got a very warm, kind and professional approach.

"She goes the extra mile and she understands the delicate balance between making homes and hostels safe with trying to make the environment as homely and personal as possible. She works with service users."

Sarah Jackson wins gold.

Highlight Park WI's cheque for charity

The cheque is handed over.

HIGHLIGHT PARK WI's Tuesday meeting earlier this month was a very pleasant afternoon spent playing Hoy (which is a form of bingo with playing cards).

Ten days later, we went by coach to the New Theatre in Cardiff to see Tommy Steele in *The Glen Miller Story*, which brought back a few memories for some of us!

At our main meeting, Mr Owens from Citizens' Advice Bureau gave a talk and raised a few laughs with some of his stories.

During the evening, a cheque for £761.65 was presented to Mr Chris Britton, of Ysgol-y-Deri School, our charity this year.

Most of this amount was made by our coffee morning, so thanks to all who helped.

Mr Britton also gave us the invitation to go to the school to see how our money was being used to buy equipment.

We have a coffee morning on Friday (November 27) from 10am-12pm to raise funds for the hall garden, which we are hoping to make more attractive to commemorate 100 years of the Women's Institute.

PW

TENOVUS COOKERY BOOK LAUNCH

The Tenovus group on their visit.

BARRY Friends of Tenovus fundraising committee, and some friends, had a two-fold reason to visit Abbey-Cwm-Hir, just north of Llandrindod Wells, on November 7.

The hall at Abbey-Cwm-Hir is Grade II listed as one of Wales' finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. There are bookable tours of all 52 rooms of the house, conducted by the family, with access to the 12 acres of landscaped gardens.

The Tenovus group particularly wanted to visit the hall at this time of year, because until January 6, all 52 rooms are decorated to individual Christmas themes!

The group is pictured (above) holding the new Tenovus cookery book that is to be launched at their coffee morning on Saturday, December 5, at Romilly Bowls Club from 10am–12pm.

All are welcome to come along and support the launch, with an entrance charge of £3, where a glass of Bucks Fizz and a mince pie will be offered. The cookery book has recipes supplied by the Tenovus group itself, their family and friends, and one or two well-known names!

Tenovus Cancer Care aims to help prevent, treat and find a cure for cancer. It does this by offering support, advice and treatment to cancer patients and their loved ones. It also promotes healthy lifestyles and funds cancer research to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

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For further information, visit the website at www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk. **NF**

'Sprinkler systems will save lives'

ASSEMBLY Natural Resources Minister, Carl Sargeant, on Monday visited a housing development in St Athan where fire sprinklers are being installed as part of the Welsh Government's fire sprinkler pilot study scheme.

A new law comes into force from January 1 that requires all new and converted housing in Wales to be fitted with fire sprinkler systems. There are 12 schemes involved in a pilot study, with 175 sprinkler installations across Wales.

The developments include detached, semi-detached and terraced houses and also flats, with the schemes consisting of 11 housing association projects and one major house building project.

An interim study report is to be published in early December and a final report due in summer 2016.

Mr Sargeant said: "The installation of fire sprinkler systems will go a long way towards minimising the risk of fire devastation. They are proven to help save lives.

"Installing sprinklers increases initial construction cost in the short term, but the reduced risk of damage to the property, combined with their proven ability to save lives, make them a cost effective means of fire control in new homes."

Go to the **Barry GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... **www.barry-today.co.uk**

School vacancy

BARRY Town Council is inviting interested parties to apply to be its minor authority representatives at Palmerston Primary School.

This is a voluntary, four-year position and the successful candidate would be expected to attend regular meetings and report back to the council.

Contact Mrs Angie Norman, acting town clerk on 01446 704920 or email: info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

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Five Ramblers didn't mind the weather, didn't mind the rain!

DESPITE a rather forlorn weather forecast of strong winds and heavy showers crossing the country, five Penarth & district Ramblers joined William to begin a 10-mile walk from the visitors' centre at Llandegfedd reservoir, which is sited on what was prime agricultural land.

The reservoir was officially opened in 1965 and is now run as a country park with SSSI status relating to the many wildfowl that over-winter there.

Togging up against the driving rain, they set off through the delightful village of Coed-y-paen passing Cilwrgi Farm to skirt Cwm Wood and joining a lane exited at Cwm Farm.

Tramping past the entrance to HM Prison Prescoed, they headed uphill through fields and Ty'n-y-caeau Farm into the shelter of Coed y Fferm or Farm Wood; and finding a small barn in which to shelter from the elements, hot beverages were much appreciated.

A waterlogged track led into Coed Cnab then along woodland tracks to a rickety footbridge over an extremely swollen stream, followed by a steep climb to the ivy covered remains of Llangybi Castle encircled by trees on private land.

Much to their amazement, a friendly estate worker stopped his tractor and very unexpectedly gave them a short talk about the history of the castle.

They then journeyed on through Llangybi Castle farmyard to enter the lovely village of Llangybi, which overlooks the River Usk,.

Fortunately, the porch of the village church dedicated to the Cornish St Cybi afforded them some shelter over lunch, before a stop at the nearby St Cybi's well, the villages' main source of fresh water until 1951.

The wind began to strengthen, and while they were tramping uphill along Ton Road, another strong squall hit them before slippery stiles and sodden fields led them past Pen-y-Parc and Clawdd farms to an unusual trig point situated in the middle of a hedge.

Another strong squall hit them as they made their way through woodland at Craig y Saeson near Forest House.

Descending past Ty Perrot and through Coed-y-paen Farm, they made their way back to their start point where, after removing wet clothing, hot drinks were the order of the day, prior to the homeward journey.

On November 28, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a seven-mile moderate walk around the Welsh St Donats area; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam, on 029 2025 5102.

Report by JOY STRANGWARD

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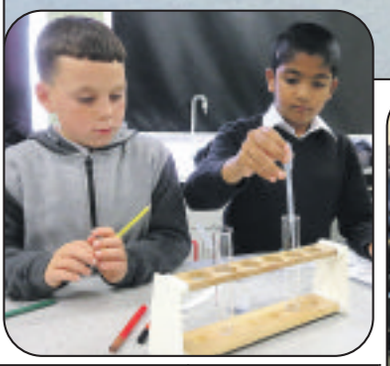
New pupils' action-packed day in Barry...

'WELCOME TO LIFE AT THE COMPREHENSIVE'



BARRY Comprehensive School recently welcomed year-5 pupils to an action-packed day to introduce them to the challenges and opportunities of secondary school.

This year, the visitors attended a variety of musical sessions led by visiting experts. These included African drums, Samba, ukuleles, Rock School and an introduction to music technology.

A hands-on science experiment kept students busy in the chemistry lab.

On the sporting front, the boys received basketball coaching as well as playing football, badminton, table tennis and some fast paced games of dodgeball.

The visiting pupils, who were ably looked after throughout the day by sixth form students, enjoyed an exciting first visit to Barry Comprehensive School.

Pi bears fruit at local school

DURING the recent half-term break, Colcot Primary School opened its doors to host a minecraft club.

It saw children from year-5 and 6 come back to school to undertake a range of activities designed to enhance their computing and programming skills. The morning allowed the children the freedom to design and create their own worlds, while working within a specific design brief.

There was also the opportunity for children to use Raspberry Pi as a creative tool, which proved extremely popular with all children.

The morning was a huge success, with some excellent designs being created and shared. Due to the popularity of this event, the school is looking forward to hosting another Saturday minecraft club before Christmas.

ME

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Values Day of 'Friendship' binds local school together

Enjoying some 'Friendship Pie'!

Students pictured with Jane Hutt at the Senedd.

ON Friday, November 20 all the pupils, staff and families at All Saints' Primary School in Barry enjoyed a wonderful day of 'friendship' – the Value for the half term.

The whole school carried out a variety of exciting activities. The year-6 children wrote prayers for all those affected by the tragedy in Paris.

Year-5 and year-1 buddies got together on friendship day and participated in many exciting activities together.

Year-4 shared bread with each other and year-3 worked hard to write and share friendship poems with their class.

Year-2 and reception made friendship hearts, which they shared with their friends and even wrote letters to tell them why they were so special to them!

Our youngest children in nursery made pasta friendship necklaces that they shared with classmates, by telling them why they were friends. They were also made a friendship pie, with a sprinkle of love, a litre of kindness and 50g of smiles!

This day was also Universal Children's Day and our school council visited the Barry YMCA where they worked alongside the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, on how to ensure children and young people get their rights respected and their voices heard.

We look forward to our next Values Day in the New Year.

School council meets the AM

On November 11, a group of students from All Saints' visited the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff Bay to quiz Jane Hutt on her role as the local AM and Minister for Finance.

"I was delighted to meet the school council and was very impressed with their thoughtful and considered questions," she said afterwards. **AW**

Local student Alivia (12) is anti-bullying ambassador for charity

"MY name is Alivia, I'm 12 years old in year-8 at Stanwell Comprehensive, Penarth, and an anti-bullying ambassador for the charity BulliesOut.

"An ambassador works to tackle bullying in their school, work and/or community. I found the volunteering opportunity through GVS and applied. I wanted to make a difference and be a good role model to others.

"I help people to feel safe and approach me with their worries knowing that everything they say is in strictest confidence. You hear stories of A grade students being the victim of bullying, grades dropping and their behaviour changing and in the worst cases, children have committed suicide, feeling it's their only way out.

"Myself and my friend Marcy, who recently joined the charity, decided to share our knowledge gained through the training we received from BulliesOut.

"We wanted to highlight the different forms of bullying and made a presentation to the year-7 assembly so students could understand the different types of bullies and how bullying can make someone feel.

"Why not join us and make a difference? Please look at the website www.bulliesout.com or visit Glamorgan Voluntary Services' for volunteering opportunities www.gvs.wales."

Day trippers meet the Vale MP in the Commons

A GROUP of Barry residents were hosted by Alun Cairns MP during a day trip to London on Friday, for a tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to welcome so many guests from Barry to Parliament. I took great pleasure in explaining my most memorable moments in Westminster, and how Parliament works from day to day."

'Shared path not up to standard'

A SAFE cycleway to Barry Island is needed, so let's be understanding of the council's proposal to meet its duty under the Active Travel Act.

This requires it to determine networks of walking and cycling routes throughout Barry (and several other Vale urban areas).

On-road cycleways over the Causeway defined by painted lines are quite possible, and very cheap. Sharing the pavement with pedestrians was not demanded by cyclists, but by officers who think they know what we want.

The shared path does not meet the standard for a primary cycleway.

What's needed, in addition to white paint, is a speed limit of 20mph (or at least no more than 30mph, in accordance with Active Travel legislation), and second, safe junctions and connections at both ends.

For cycling to the Island, we need a safe crossing of traffic over to Paget Road and the beach.

From the Island, we need a contraflow cycle lane from the Ship Hotel to Broad Street, avoiding the over-steep St Nicholas Road.

At the same time as that contraflow cycle lane, we need a contraflow lane along Park Avenue, connecting Romilly Park and the Knap to the town.

The Active Travel guidance, unfortunately, includes tick-box evaluation, that does not say – as it should – that the St Nicholas Hill is virtually a 'no-no' for cycling.

That's why the council needs to involve local cyclists in designing the network.

It promised to revive the Cycling Forum after a gap of six years or so – the sooner the better!

Going ahead with constructing the shared path, when it issupposedly consulting on Active Travel plans, shows zero regard for public consultation by the council's road-men.

Max Wallis,
Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth.

No homes for Cemetery Road

BARRY Town Council has reassured local residents over work to clear vacant sites on Cemetery Road, Barry.

Acting Town Clerk, Angie Norman, stated: "The council is working in partnership with the Vale Council to create a garden area on both sides of Cemetery Road.

"We are aware that a number of residents are of the belief that houses are to be built on this area and we would like to reassure all Barry residents that this is not the case, and that it is the intention of both councils to provide a peaceful garden area, which residents of the town will be able to enjoy.

"Final plans on the proposals are still awaited, but it is anticipated that progress will be made on this project with a completion date within the 2015/16 financial year."

ROTARY CLUB HANDS OVER CHEQUE

BARRY Rotary Club president, Paul Halstead, recently presented a cheque on behalf of the club to volunteer Gay Fifield (above), who organises Friends and Neighbours on behalf of Age Connect in the Vale.

The money will be used to give Friends and Neighbours a Christmas party.

In December, the club will be supporting the Dickensian fair in Dinas Powys, as well as joining with the Inner Wheel Club of Barry to put on a Christmas evening in a residential home in Barry.

The club continues to support the Vale Foodbank each month throughout the year and is grateful to the public for their continued support.

The club meets in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm. More details are available from the secretary, Phil Hunt, on 01446 720000, or visit ribi.org.

Nordic walkers win graduation certificates

BARRY ISLAND saw a graduation ceremony with a difference on November 18 when eight local residents got certificates, after completing a five-week course on Nordic walking with Geoff Hollett.

Nordic walking involves walking using lightweight, specially-designed poles that exercise your arms, shoulders, chest and back as you walk.

Age Cymru's Rhian Pearce handed certificates to the new members of the Barry Nordic Walking Club outside the Whitmore and Jackson café.

Said Rhian Pearce: "Congratulations to our eight graduates; they all passed their 'Introduction to Nordic Walking' course, which was run at Porthkerry Park, with flying colours."

The older people's charity Age Cymru supports Barry Nordic Walking Club as part of its Healthy Ageing programme.

The club meets on Mondays at Cosmeston Country Park at 10am and Wednesdays at Porthkerry Park at 10am.

The next five-week 'Introduction to Nordic Walking' begins on Thursday, December 8 at Porthkerry Park.

For further information contact Geoff Hollett on 01446 730613 or geoffhollett@hotmail.com and Rhian Pearce at Age Cymru on 029 2043 1555 or rhian.pearce@agecymru.org.uk.

GH

Fascinating talk on Coastal Watch

AT the meeting on Monday, November 16, Cadoxton (Barry) WI enjoyed a talk about the Coastal Watch.

Terry Ewington gave a fascinating insight into the work carried out by the volunteers who are stationed at Barry Island. His presentation included the sites of the many and varied buildings which are used through out Britain.

Open days are held annually and visitors are welcome. Preparations for the coffee morning on December 1 at the Civic Offices in aid of Holme Tower were discussed and members were generous with their contributions and offer of assistance.

The raffles were won by Brenda and Sue.

Meetings are held every third Monday of the month at Victoria Park Community Centre at 7pm. Contact 01446 404891 for further information.

ValePlus Centre of Excellence

VALEPLUS in Barry has been acknowledged as a centre of excellence by ASDAN, the qualification awarding body offering skills for employment and skills for life.

The nomination came from regional managers at ASDAN for "outstanding practice" specifically in relation to inclusive curriculum, creative teaching and learning and supporting the network of practitioners.

Hoodah Griffiths, ValePlus's qualification co-ordinator, said :"We are delighted to be awarded this certificate and extremely proud of our service users who have gained qualifications through ASDAN.

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Lyndsay & Nicola would like to thank all those who attended their Christmas Memorial Service to remember loved ones.

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Hospital fund donation for Penarth hospice

PICTURED: HSF chief executive Paul Jackson, chair of the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Development Board Bill Jenkins and former Wales striker, John Hartson.

THE Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale hospice at Penarth is one of 22 Welsh charities and good causes awarded a donation from the Hospital Saturday Fund.

It received £3,000 as part of the £80,000 donated to 22 Welsh charities in the fund's first Welsh charity reception on November 16.

The donation was received by Bill Jenkins, Chair of the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Development Board.

Among the other good causes to benefit from Hospital Saturday Funds donations was the John Hartson Foundation, set up by the former Wales striker following his battle with cancer.

In 2015 the fund will give £850,000 in grants to medical charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK and Ireland. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

AWARDS FOR VALEPLUS CAFE

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, recently visited Cafe No 5 in High Street, Barry – to present certificates of achievement to staff and service users.

Cafe No 5 is run by ValePlus, the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability. The Cafe provides a number of certificated courses,and awards were presented for food hygiene, employability and workright.

Coun Pritchard praised the work being undertaken at the Cafe and said: "It is always a pleasure to visit the cafe but today is a special occasion when the good work being done by the staff is properly recognised."

Steve Thomas, director of ValePlus, also added his praise and congratulated everyone on their achievements. The cafe is open to the public and is situated on 5 High Street, Barry.

Details about ValePlus can be found on www.valeplus.org.uk or by phoning 01446 746691.

MEMORIES OF THE WINNIE MAE...

THE speaker at last week's meeting of the Barry Men's Forum was Mr Mike Duckburn, whose interest was fired when he read an old book, given to his father by one of the aircrew, Harold Gatty, entitled *Around the World in Eight Days*.

In 1931, Whiley Post, who had lost an eye in an oil field accident, purchased with his $240 compensation, a VAGA 5 aircraft which he named *Winnie Mae*.

Because of Gatty's navigational knowledge, not only of celestial bodies, but bird flight paths etc., he persuaded him to join him on the challenge of circumnavigating the world.

The *Winnie Mae* left Nova Scotia with extra fuel tanks holding 540 gallons, and flew across the Atlantic, landing at Sealand Air Base near Chester.

Then on to Hanover, and Moscow, where the weather was so bad, they had to fly very low, weaving between chimneys belching smoke from the factories.

They had pre-arranged refuelling through Russia, but on failing to take off at Moscow, they soon learned that the Russian gallon was larger than the American gallon, and petrol had to be dumped – on the runway!

After numerous other incidents, they crashlanded at Fairway and bent the propeller, which they repaired with a hammer..

They eventually completed their circumnavigation in 207 hours with an average speed of 146 mph.

New members are welcome. On December 3, the speaker will be Mr John Tudor who will be reminiscing about his life in showbiz.

The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday at 10.15am.

There is no annual fee, just a weekly donation when you attend a meeting.

For further information, contact 02920 594881. **PMW**

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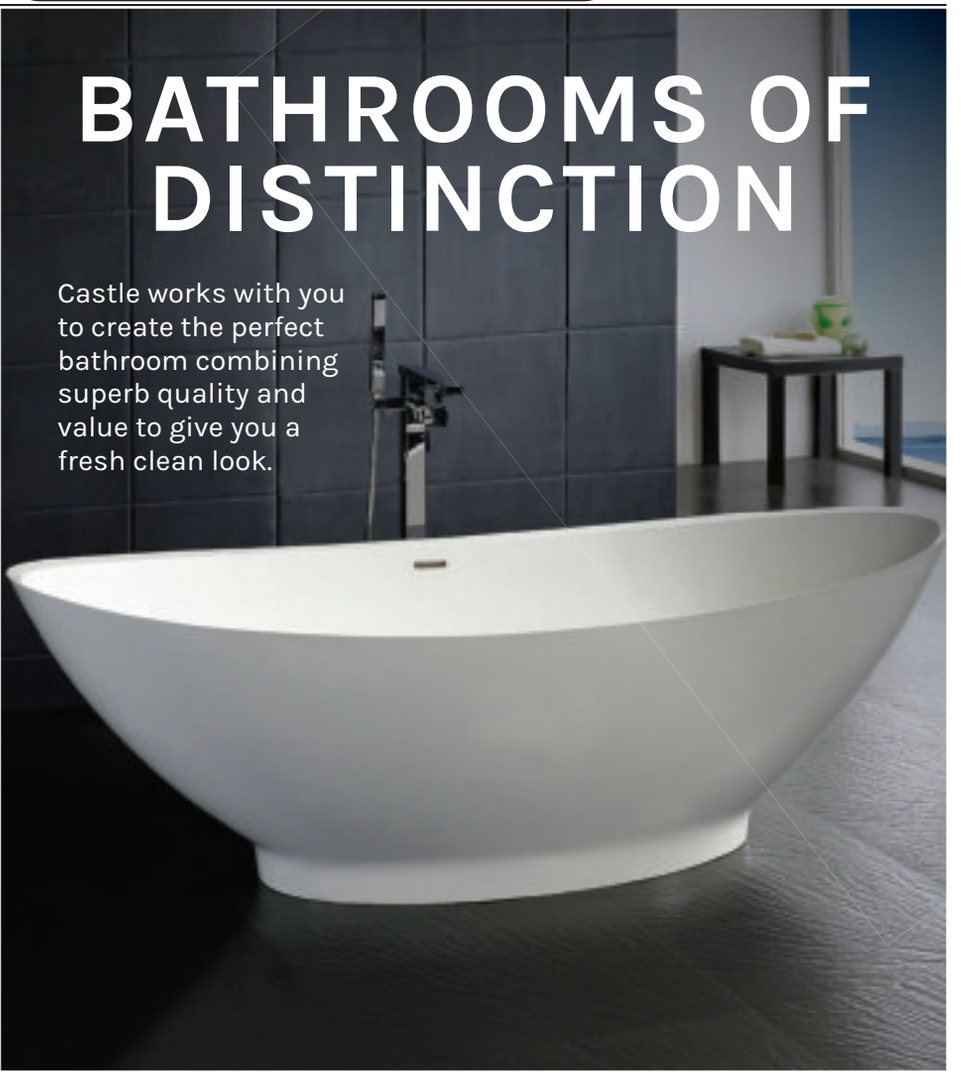

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'Thank you for your 115 years of service'

PICTURED, ABOVE:
Back row, from left: Reuben Bergman; The Mayor; Deborah Hodges, Colin Smith. Front row, from left: Adrian Unsworth, Geraldine Parry Richardson, and Philip Bugler.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Frederick Johnson, recently welcomed Vale Council staff to tea in his parlour at Barry.

With 115 years of service collectively, long service awards were presented to: Adrian Unsworth, Geraldine Parry, Philip Bugler and Colin Smith.

They were congratulated by the Mayor and head of human resources for the Vale Council, Reuben Bergman.

News update at Barry & Vale FoE

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, December 1 in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

The group joined the people of Cowbridge on November 21 to celebrate the 90th birthday of a lifelong environmental/justice campaigner, who had donated her birthday gifts to a variety of causes and charities.

On Saturday, November 28 members will be cycling to the Senate in Cardiff Bay, joining in a 'Pedal for the Planet' event.

Following the attacks by Islamic extremists in Mali, Paris, Cameroon and other places worldwide, many thousands of people from around the world will be unable to gather in Paris on Sunday, November 29 to put pressure on world leaders who will be meeting to decide the fate of the planet.

Instead, cities and towns worldwide are organising their own events to focus attention on the urgent need for action on climate change.

The group's legal challenge against incinerator toxic ash being dumped on Barry docks continues and we are glad to hear that the incinerator planned for the dock may not be going ahead.

KEITH STOCKDALE
Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth Coordinator

Learning the true story of Christmas

THE story of Christmas is coming to Barry this year and will be performed for a week at St Mary's Church in Holton Road, with local people playing the parts.

Last year, it was presented in Cardiff, Aberdare, Carmarthen and Port Talbot.

Father Ben Andrews, the Rector of the Barry Churches of St Mary's and St Cadoc, said: "We are thrilled to bring The Story of Christmas to Barry and to become the fifth town to present the full-costume production. Everyone is welcome and all the schools in Barry have been invited."

The story will be told every day from December 14-19 at 10.30am and 1.30pm, with colourful scenery and costumes, made by members of Barry churches and a recorded soundtrack.

Congregations at St Mary's, St Cadoc, All Saints, St Baruc's, St Paul's Merthyr Dyfan, St Helen's, methodists and baptists are contributing.

If anyone would like to volunteer to take part, telephone Father Ben on 01446 406690.

Students get chance to meet prospective employers in class

Hair and beauty students networking with potential employers.

SEVENTEEN employers from the hair, beauty, spa and complementary therapies industry in south Wales have paid students at Cardiff and Vale College a visit – in a bid to recruit the next generation of talent.

Mark Corey from Corey & Co imparting his knowledge to a hair and beauty student.

It was held at the college's new commercial salon and spa, part of the £45m city centre campus was launched earlier this year.

Ceri Evans, head of hair, beauty, spa and complementary therapies at the college, said: "It's so important for our students to experience the world of work whilst they train; not only to ensure that they're able to transfer their skills as soon as they complete their course but also to give them better opportunities for employment.

Laura Phillips (22) who is studying beauty and spa therapy Level 3, said: "I thought the event was really informative and I was able to make some great connections. I have a much better understanding of what employers are looking for."

Vale Recruitment Company Celebrates 10 Years in Business

On the 20th November, Pier Consulting Ltd celebrated their 10 year anniversary in style with an afternoon tea party at their office in the Vale of Glamorgan. The staff enjoyed sandwiches, cakes and champagne to mark the occasion. Staff worked against the clock to get the office ready for the party. The whole team have been involved in painting, fitting a new kitchen and decorating the office, right down to the finishing touches of bunting and balloons. Pier Consulting Ltd was founded in 2005 by Philippa and Glyn George, who have over 50 years combined experience in recruitment. In April 2013, Paul Ingram, who has been in recruitment for over 20 years and originally started his career working for his now business partners, was appointed as the Managing Director of Pier Consulting Ltd. The three owners are immensely proud of what the staff have achieved, particularly in the last 2 and a half years. The dedicated individuals who make up the team at Pier Consulting Ltd have worked extremely hard to get the company to where it is today and are now supplying more than three times the amount of operatives to the Construction Industry across Wales.

Paul states that none of what the company has achieved today could have been possible without the commitment and dedication of the staff. We have become like a family, he explains. The team are really enthusiastic and excited about the future of the company and each employee has a vested interest in the plans to develop and expand over the coming years. The company has some further ambitious plans for continued growth in 2016, which will see further exciting times ahead. Paul is grateful to all his staff and he would also like to thank Pier's loyal customers and all the temporary workers for completing assignments for Pier Consulting Ltd.

Pier Consulting pride themselves in having the expertise to select the best temporary workers to fulfil the needs of our Clients within the Building, Housing, Construction, Mechanical & Electrical Building Services and Engineering industries. Every member of the team shares a passion for recruitment and are equally committed to delivering excellent series to both Clients and candidates alike. This commitment comes as a direct result from being in a positive, fun, friendly and enthusiastic environment. Staff describe their role at Pier Consulting as "more than just a job". This enthusiasm and desire to deliver the best possible service has also led to long term relationships with several well-known national and international companies. Staff feel that this is an extremely rewarding part of their job.

2015 has seen some great achievements for the company and individuals and has been an exciting year! 2015 has also seen Pier Consulting Ltd take on 5 new Apprentices under the 'Flexible Apprenticeship' scheme in partnership with BEST Apprenticeships. This scheme benefits both the Employer and the Apprentice themselves as should the Employer no longer be able to commit to the Apprenticeship, we can source an alternative placement with a different employer for the Apprentice to continue their training. This is an attractive scheme as it allows Clients to increase their labour without a long-term commitment but still enables the Apprentice to receive the necessary training and support to complete their qualification. Pier Consulting Ltd are proud to be playing their part in combatting the skills shortage in the Construction Industry.

Pier Consulting Ltd also support the local communities and sponsor a number of local sports clubs, providing equipment and kits to Llantwit Major Under 10s Football Club, Llantwit Major Under 10s Rugby Club, Llantwit Major AFC and the Valley Blades Under 14s Football Club.

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Fair funding for Wales a must as Assembly looks to budget

IN the lead-up to the Chancellor's autumn statement on Wednesday, there has been much speculation and concern about the impact his announcements will have on Wales and our public services.

In his statement, the Chancellor laid out his spending review plans. On December 8, I will present the Welsh Government's draft Budget for next year (2016/17).

This is based on the UK Government's plans, which will result in financial 'consequentials' for Wales in the areas of public spending that we are responsible for – health, social services, education, local government, housing, transport, arts, sport and the environment.

In the current spending review period (2010-15) public spending has been reduced, year on year, as a result of the UK Government's austerity measures, with the Welsh Government's budget cut back by £1.3bn during that period. Our capital budget has also been cut by 30 per cent since 2009.

During this challenging period, I have worked to find new ways of supporting our capital spending on housing, health, education, transport and flood protection by carefully managing our remaining capital programme and using new and innovative ways to finance public spending, including assisting local authorities with their prudential borrowing, for highways and schools.

This has enabled us to work together to build new schools like Ysgol Dewi Sant in Llantwit Major, which I was delighted to officially open with Coun Chris Elmore this week and to cut the turf for the new £22m Llantwit Major Comprehensive School building – all part of the £25m Llantwit learning community.

This follows on from the Welsh Government and Vale Council's investment in the £46m Penarth learning community and Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Our funding has enabled these wonderful new schools to be built.

The Minister for Natural Resources also visited Barry and St Athan this week to launch the Arbed eco programme in Gibbonsdown, which will bring just over £2m of Welsh Government finance to externally clad almost 240 homes.

In St Athan, we visited the new homes being built for local people with water sprinklers installed, to improve home fire safety.

This is all about priorities. It is about how we choose to spend and manage our limited and reducing public finances on behalf of the people and businesses of Wales.

This was the message I gave to the European Investment Bank and European Commission last week, when they visited Wales to advise us on new financial opportunities arising from the 315m Euros European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), which has identified the Velindre cancer centre as a possible early candidate for these funds.

My visit to Velindre Hospital last week was also inspiring, as I met clinicians and Velindre Ambassadors who are developing a plan to transform cancer services in south east Wales.

With the engagement of health boards and patients, they are developing a pioneering new hub and spoke service, including primary care and local hospitals in the delivery of the Velindre cancer services.

Our commitment to invest in health and social services has been uppermost in our choice of priorities in this spending review.

This has contributed to the pleasing announcement by the Treasury, as part of their annual public expenditure analysis that spending on vital public services is higher here in Wales than in any other part of the UK.

The Welsh Government's spend on health and social services is rising faster in Wales than anywhere else in the UK. We are spending seven per cent more on health and social services than in England (£172 more per person) and our spend on education is four per cent higher in Wales than in England.

This is set against a challenging backdrop of UK Government policies on tax and benefits, with a report this week by the IFS (Institute of Fiscal Studies) revealing that Wales could lose £600m because of planned changes affecting the lower income working families in Wales who we seek to support.

This is set against the backdrop of the financial challenges we face as the Barnett Formula continues to disadvantage Wales.

That is why it is essential that Wales gets a 'fairer funding' deal from the UK Government.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** (Minister for Finance)

STANDING IN ELECTION

Journalist and commentator, Denis Campbell, has been chosen as the Liberal-Democrat candidate for the Vale at the Welsh Assembly elections in 2016.

He was educated in the United States and has lived in the Vale for 12 years with his wife and three children at Monknash. They recently moved to Ogmore-by-Sea: "I'm delighted to have been selected to represent an area that I love," he said.

PACT meetings

***RHOOSE** coffee and chat on Monday, November 30 at the Highwayman Inn at 11am.*

***CADOC** – meet your local officers at Waitrose on Thursday, November 26 between 10am and 2pm.*

***DYFAN PACT** on Sunday, December 6 at Highlight Park Community Centre at 7.30pm.*

***BARUC PACT** on Monday, December 7 at St Barucs Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island at 6.30pm.*

***ILLTYD PACT** on Thursday, December 10 at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry at 3pm.*

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CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

HIGH STREET, BARRY

Friday 27th November
From 4pm

Enjoy festive street entertainers and live music plus meet Santa and his Reindeer.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Saturday 28th November
2pm to 7pm

Includes Santa, live music, lantern parade at **6.15pm** and the lights will be switched on at **7pm.**

LIGHT UP THE SQUARE

KING SQUARE, BARRY

Saturday 28th November
12 noon to 5pm

The day will start at **12 noon** with live music, festive street entertainers and street artists and returning for a second year, Barry Town Hall will once again come to life with a spectacular 3D Christmas projection show.

The 10 minute show will feature a festive story with music and beautiful Christmas images...one not to be missed. The projection show will start at **5pm** and will take place just before the Christmas Light countdown. The show will repeat after the Christmas lights have been switched on.

Holton Rd pedestrian area will also host a Christmas market on the **28th – 10am to 6pm.**

COWBRIDGE REINDEER PARADE

Sunday 29th November
Parade starts at 12 noon

Meet Santa and his reindeer. Christmas lights switched on at **5.15pm.**

PENARTH CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday 29th November
2pm to 6pm

The festive festival starts with a parade at **1.45pm** at West House and the day includes Father Christmas, nativity scenes, live music and Christmas entertainment. The Christmas Light Switch On takes place at **5pm.**

ST ATHAN CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Sunday 29th November
3pm to 5pm

The fun starts at 3pm with festive street entertainers and live music including brass bands, choirs and handbell ringers. Benhaz Ahter – BBC Wales' Weather girl, will turn on the lights at **5.00pm.** Mulled Wine and Mince pies will also be on offer throughout the day.

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

THE OLD VILLAGE, DINAS POWYS

Friday 4th December
From 6pm

Enjoy fun, food, drink and festive music and entertainment. Plus browse craft and gift stalls just in time for Christmas presents.

CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

HIGH STREET, BARRY

Saturday 5th December
10am to 4pm

Enjoy some fantastic craft, art and food stalls.

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

ST DONATS CASTLE

Sunday 6th December
10.30am to 4.30pm

Browse a wonderful selection of stalls including Jewellery, wood, glass, ceramics and more. **£6 per car** and **£2 per person on foot.**

COWBRIDGE LATE NIGHT SHOP

Thursday 10th December
5pm to 8pm

Take advantage of the festive special offers and pick up some unique Christmas gifts. Enjoy festive refreshments and music.

LET IT SNOW!

CENTRAL PARK, BARRY

Saturday 12th December
10am to 4pm

For one day only Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town! The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops. **Free Event.**

PENARTH LATE NIGHT SHOP

Thursday 17th December
5pm to 8pm

Take advantage of the festive special offers and pick up some unique Christmas gifts. Enjoy festive refreshments and music plus a live nativity scene.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

LLANTWIT MAJOR SHOPPING PRECINCT, BOVERTON RD

Saturday 19th December
10am to 4pm

Browse craft and gift stalls for some last minute Christmas presents plus enjoy festive music and entertainment.

For further details on all events please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com or follow @visitthevale visitthevale

DISABLED RIDERS SAY 'HATS OFF' TO POSTCODE LOTTERY

RIDERS at Vale of Glamorgan RDA, a local riding centre for disabled children, are benefiting from new safety hats, thanks to the People's Postcode Lottery.

The hats have been provided for Riding for the Disabled for less than half their recommended retail price, as funding from players enabled the charity to bulk buy and obtain a substantially reduced price.

New EU regulations have outlawed the use of certain types of riding hat, and groups like the Vale of Glamorgan RDA were facing a significant bill to replace their existing hats. RDA UK, which supports around 500 groups all over the country, stepped in and allocated funds awarded from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

"Our riders enjoy their sessions and rely on us to be here each week with all the equipment they need. The new hat regulations came as an unexpected and costly outlay for our small group and at first we were really worried about how we could afford to replace the hats.

"But then we heard that funds were available to help us. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery we now have some shiny new hats, which we love!" said RDA volunteer, Lynne Mordecai.

Lynne will be celebrating with local players living in the Vale of Glamorgan as the People's Postcode Lottery Millions has landed in their postcode. Lottery players will find out how much of the £2 million prize fund they will share when they open their golden envelopes at an event at Dyffryn Gardens on Saturday, November 28.

RDA is one of the many charities who benefit from lottery funding and this event is a chance for supported charities to meet players and say thank you.

Festive toys appeal for needy local children

LOCAL Co-op stores have teamed-up with HMP and YOI Parc and Bridge FM to launch their 11th Christmas toy appeal for disadvantaged children in the area.

To ensure that hundreds of needy children receive a present on Christmas Day, the community is urged to drop off a toy at participating Co-op food stores in Cowbridge, Margam, Llantwit Major, Pontycymmer, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Brackla and Pyle (petrol filling station store) by Sunday, December 13.

Last year, more than 1,500 toys and gifts were given to children whose families were struggling or unable to cope during the festive period.

They will be wrapped in the HMP and YOI Parc workshops and distributed with the support of local charities and organisations, including the Salvation Army, Bridgend County Borough Council Family Services, Women's Aid, Young Carers, and the Princess of Wales Hospital Children's Ward.

Craig Thomas at Bridge FM, said: "This appeal never ceases to amaze me, we desperately need the help of the community and the generosity and kindness that is shown is always overwhelming. It is heart-breaking to think that some children will wake up without a gift on Christmas morning and so by donating a toy – no matter how big or small – you really are helping to ensure that children and young people from families in difficulty get to share something that most of us take for granted at Christmas."

A Co-op spokeswoman said: "It is heart-warming that so many people remember to think of others at this time of year. We are delighted to once again team up with Bridge FM so that members of the community can pop into the Co-op and drop off a gift which will make a real difference to a local child's Christmas."

Toys and gifts do not need to be wrapped, but must be new and suitable for children or teenagers.

More information is on the following link: http://bridge.fm/?do=wpage&page=Make_a_Local_Childs_Christmas.

Tories re-selected

ANDREW R T DAVIES AM and David Melding AM have been reselected as number one and two for the Welsh Conservatives in south Wales central, ahead of next May's Welsh Assembly elections.

Mr Davies has represented the region in the Assembly since 2007 and has been Leader of the Welsh Conservatives for four-and-a-half years.

David Melding has served the people of south Wales central since 1999 and is currently the Assembly's Deputy Presiding Officer.

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Vigil to remember Somme

THE Welsh National War Memorial in Cardiff will hold an overnight public vigil on June 30 next year – to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, Culture Secretary John Whittingdale announced last week.

There will also be a national vigil at Westminster Abbey and vigils in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A commemorative service at Manchester Cathedral on July 1, will be followed by a people's procession through Manchester to Heaton Park, and performances featuring the Hallé Orchestra.

John Whittingdale said: "We must never forget the scale of what happened at the Somme. More died on the first day of battle than any other day of the First World War.

"Almost every family in the country was touched by the devastating losses.

"I hope people of all generations up and down the country will have the chance to attend an event and honour the bravery of those who sacrificed so much."

Communities interested in projects exploring the impact of the Battle of the Somme in the trenches or on the Home Front can apply for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund's First World War: Then and Now £4 million fund.

They can also apply for funding to conserve and repair war memorials as an act of remembrance.

Rhoose History Society talk

A TALK will be held tomorrow (November 27) at 7.30pm, in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

The speaker will be Peter Finch on 'Real Cardiff'; admission adult £1, child 50p (under 16) with buffet afterwards.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery this Saturday, November 28, from 10am – 11am at the Barry Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, Barry. No appointment is necessary.

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'Terminally-ill deserve high quality care and support'

LEADER of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, has added his voice to a Marie Curie campaign calling for the right of everyone to have palliative care when they need it.

He joined the charity's senior health care assistant, Tracy Tucker, at Ty Hywel in Cardiff Bay to back the campaign supporting people living with terminal illness and their families.

The South Wales Central regional AM, Andrew R T Davies, said: "Having visited and seen first-hand the work Marie Curie nurses carry out to care for and support people living with a terminal illness in the Vale of Glamorgan, I am delighted to support the charity's campaign to ensure that people who need palliative care services don't miss out at the time when they need that care the most.

"This dreadful disease has a huge impact on the patient and their family and we must ensure the necessary support and assistance is available and provided to everyone involved. That is a right that everyone deserves."

The campaign comes as Marie Curie revealed that only half of the people over the age of 50 in Wales – of whom there are 1.2 million – are not confident they will get the care they need towards the end of their life.

Currently, one in four people each year who need palliative care miss out because their needs are not recognised and they are not referred on to the right services. Marie Curie is calling on the Welsh Government to build on the good work already done to improve access to high quality palliative and end-of-life care for everyone with a terminal illness.

Marie Curie will be launching a new integrated hospice-at - home service, in collaboration with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, in the New Year. It will transform care for those with a terminal illness by providing flexible, 24-hour care.

The Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice at Penarth is a 30-bed unit providing specialist round the clock care.

The hospice has a twice-monthly café for carers to meet.

Simon Jones, head of policy and public affairs for Wales at Marie Curie, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Andrew R T Davies for supporting Marie Curie's campaign. Much has been done in Wales over recent years to improve palliative care services but we must all continue to work to ensure that everyone with a terminal illness, whatever illness that might be or wherever they live, gets the high quality care and support they need and deserve."

If you or someone you're close to has a terminal illness, you can call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm or visit mariecurie.org.uk/help.

ABOVE: Andrew R T Davies AM, pictured with Marie Curie Senior Health Care Assistant, Tracy Tucker.

Can you stop sleepy Leo missing out?

*The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (**telephone: 01656 725219**)*

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog lovers to help find a loving home for an unusual, very sleepy, homeless resident!

The rehoming centre staff are concerned that Leo the Greyhound will continue to be overlooked by thousands of potential owners – because he is always fast asleep when they visit!

The snoozy hound has been at the rehoming centre for nearly two months, and despite seeing so many of his furry counterparts find loving homes of their own, no one has shown any interest in him.

The charity estimate that nearly 1,000 people would have overlooked laidback Leo when searching for their perfect pooch.

The five-year-old Greyhound was handed into Dogs Trust through no fault of his own, when his racing career ended and is now hoping to wake up from his slumbers in a new home surrounded by a loving family.

SLEEPY LEO!

Linda Feagan, Dogs Trust Bridgend Supporter Relations Officer explains: "We take in hundreds of dogs of all shapes and sizes but I have never met a dog who sleeps quite as much as Leo. He is a real character and, when he is awake, is a sweet-natured, fun–loving affectionate lad who adores people and playing games.

"Leo is exceptionally handsome, so it's a bit of a shame he is often snoozing when he could be showing himself off to potential owners. He is a young happy, healthy dog who, like some people, just happens to really enjoy sleeping!"

Linda adds: "It is a bit of a myth that Greyhounds need lots of exercise; in fact, the complete opposite is true. As Leo demonstrates daily, they are actually quite lazy creatures and though they need a few short bursts of exercise a day, are actually more than happy to curl up and snooze for most of the day."

Call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Choir's taster evening draws in 19 recruits!

THE Barry Male Voice Choir's recruitment taster evening was a resounding success, choir secretary Richard King reported.

"A total of 19 interested men turned up at the Barry Westend Social Club in response to the superb coverage given to the event by The GEM and the choir's talented musical director Dot Connell and accompanist Emma Arscott provided a gentle introduction to male voice singing.

This was followed by a pint, a buffet and a resounding sing song, accompanied by choir guitarist Slow Hand Shewring.

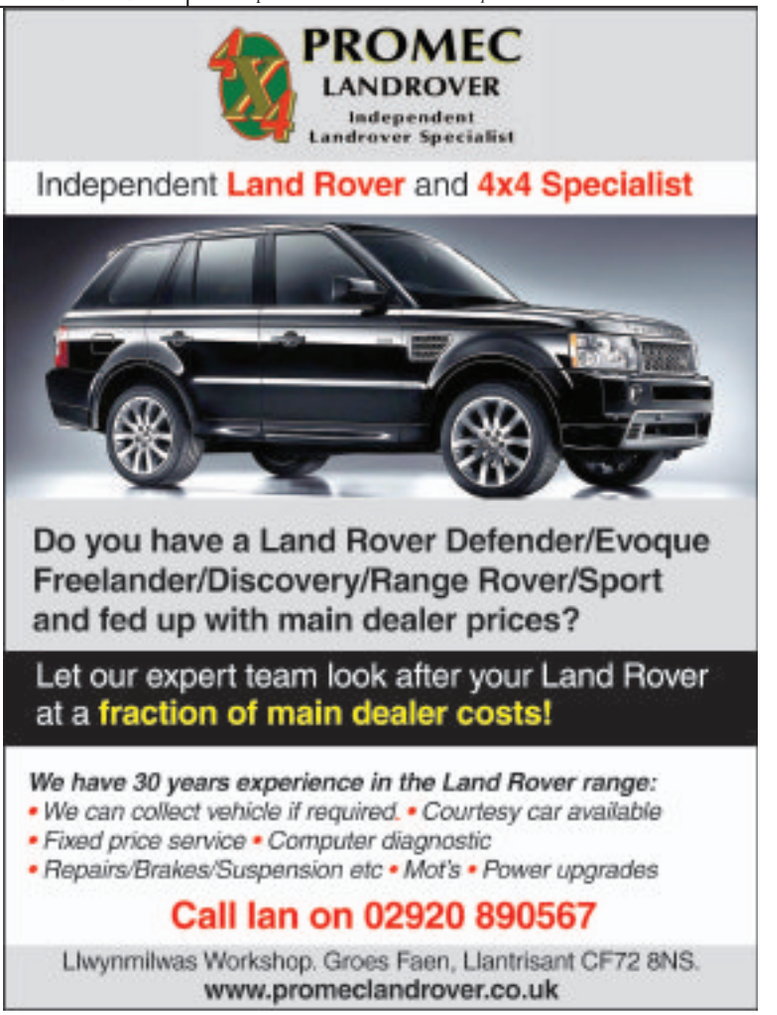
"Success will only be measured by those who turn up on Thursday for the follow-up rehearsal for new voices only," said a cautious Mr King.

"In fact, Thursday evening's first rehearsal of a series for new potential members was almost a question of standing room only!"

Richard King added: "Any gentlemen interested in singing, who have not attended our rehearsals for newcomers, will still be very welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at Trinity Church, Trinity Street Barry from 6.45pm-7.30pm.

"We are an ever increasing very sociable band of brothers, singing together for each other and for the wider benefit of the wider community".

For more information see www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk or phone 07790552565.



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Out and About with The GEM

Final Hunger Games outing fails to thrill...

ALL good things come to an end, though whether the *Hunger Games* franchise is good, depends on your own opinion.

What is unarguable is that the franchise has been a juggernaut, made a leading lady out of Jennifer Lawrence, and filled the 'young adult' gap left vacant by the *Twilight* franchise.

The final film of the series, *Mockingjay – Part 2*, comes 12 months after the first part which was an underwhelming film that saw plenty of talking but little action, something this second half will no doubt attempt to put right.

As the war of Panem escalates to the destruction of other districts by the Capitol, Katniss (Lawrence) must bring together an army against President Snow, while everything she holds dear hangs in the balance and the future of the world lies in the hands of a few...

As *The Hunger Games* franchise has rolled on, the films themselves have developed from the 'fight-for-survival' tones of the first two into war films with the battle against oppression driving the narrative.

What they haven't done, however, is ever coalesce into something cinematically satisfying. While Suzanne Collins' prose may well engage the reader, when it comes to the films, despite the talent involved they've never been that thrilling, that engrossing.

If the first part of this overly elongated farewell was a dull affair that saw little of any great note occur, then *Mockingjay – Part 2* comes armed with a little more style and substance, but ultimately feels both dragged out and undercooked, the story stretched to extremes at just over two hours but, lead characters aside, lacking any great depth.

Director Francis Lawrence has overseen 75 per cent of this franchise, and is more than comfortable with what he has to do.

The scope of the piece is impressive, this world full of rubble and destruction having a superb sense of scale;' while the crazy death traps of the first film are brought onto the streets as Katniss and Co's march towards President Snow is made all that trickier by oil that contains wire traps, machine guns and creatures that have more than a little bite in them.

It's when the stakes are most high, when the characters are in danger that the film really works, a sewer-set sequence tense, claustrophobic and well-handled, but all too often the film settles itself into the lowest gear and ploughs through the story.

There are story elements that are lofty and satisfying – Katniss becoming a propaganda tool rather than a revolutionary, the true cost of the battle as lives are lost and Peeta's (Josh Hutcherson) post-traumatic conditioning to try and kill Katniss – but these often get lost in the mix, while the way that some supporting characters are dealt with is poor and unforgiving, especially when you consider how stretched the story is across the two parts.

Jennifer Lawrence is always convincing as Katniss, who, reaching the endgame, has to make dangerous choices and decisions, while Hutcherson impresses the most as he unravels, desperate to save himself and help his friends, even if it may have lethal consequences.

A raft of quality actors back them up but feel undercooked, not least Julianne Moore's rebel leader whose story arc is so underplayed its resolution, which should be a grandstanding moment, barely registers.

It's this sense of so little happening that really grates. Across the two hours there is so much to bring to a conclusion, but for a final part of a four film (three book) story there is so little urgency it frustrates, leading to plot points and characters being given short shrift.

It also offers few surprises for those not having read the books, the story playing out with predictability that doesn't really help, while the love triangle element gets more time than the meatier story strand of standing up for what you believe in and fighting back.

All in all, it's something of a weak film, an argument for why, rather than splitting *Mockingjay*, it should have been one film that would have been punchier and had more dramatic heft – instead by splitting the films, and arguably focusing more on profit than creating something worthwhile, it fails to thrill.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

VERDICT – The final farewell to *The Hunger Games* franchise isn't a fond one – instead *Mockingjay – Part 2* is an infuriating blend of undercooked plot and slow pace. Despite the loose ends that need tying, it never really hits any degree of urgency and rather than ebb and flow just potters along at a slow pace. It has its moments, but they are few and far between in this concluding chapter. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: ***The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*; *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014)**

WHAT'S ON and where

Farmers' market

THE next Bridgend Farmers' Market is at Awel y Mor Community Hall off Wellfield Avenue, Porthcawl, this Saturday, November 28, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Fresh produce available from local producers. Limited off road car parking is available at the hall.

Bingo afternoon

Rhoose Community Hall committee are holding their final bingo afternoon of 2015 on November 28 at 1.45pm for a 2.30pm start at the hall in Stewart Road, Rhoose.

This will be an early Christmas celebration with festive refreshments and a raffle. All welcome.

Beach clean

ON Sunday, November 29, Friends of Barry Beaches will be holding a beach clean and are looking for volunteers to help them remove rubbish.

They will be cleaning Jacksons Bay beach on Barry Island, meeting at 3pm adjacent to the toilets.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied, but wear sturdy boots and suitable clothing.

Friends of Barry Beaches will also be supporting the Wales Climate Rally this coming Saturday.

There will be a mass cycle ride from Callaghan Square to the Senedd, or meet at the Senedd steps from 2pm-3pm.

"Bring banners and fancy dress to ensure political leaders hear our voices before the vital climate talks in Paris," they urge.

Choir schedule

BARRY Male Voice Choir will attend the switching on of the Christmas Lights on Friday (November 27) at 6pm; and the Advent concert at 6pm on Sunday, November 29, St David's Methodist Church, Colcot Road.

Saturday, December 5, St Helen's RC Church, Wyndham Street, Barry (2pm), Christmas concert featuring the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band. Proceeds in aid of Air Ambulance Wales; admission £5, children admitted free.

Monday, December 7, Wetherspoons Sir Samuel Romilly Barry, 7.30pm; join the choir for an evening of community carols and seasonal fun.

Proceeds in aid of Sir Malcolm Sargent's CLIC fund for children sufferering from cancer. Admission free.

Saturday, December 19 in the afternoon, carol singing in Barry Hospital.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train sale will be held this Sunday, November 29 at 10.30am-3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our Barry event is proving ever more popular and offers a wonderful range of stall holders trading in the large and well-lit venue, which offers large amounts of space for everyone".

Credit Union advice

IN partnership with Co-op Electrical, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on December 1 from (10am to 12 midday) when anyone can chat to an adviser from Cardiff and Vale Credit Union.

No appointment is needed.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Valeways walks:

December 1, at 10am, Crwydro, Ynys Y Barri, Coffee Cove Cafe.

(Also on December 1 at 2.30pm, the coffee shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major outside the town hall).

Wednesday, December 2, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Christmas fayre

THE Windsor Bowling Club Christmas fayre takes place on Saturday, December 5 at 10am in the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth.

Entrance £1, includes coffee and a mince pie. There will be cake and bottle stalls, a big raffle, hampers, a bran tub, plants and more.

All welcome.

Llancarfan festive tree

THE lighting up of the Christmas tree will take place on Sunday, December 6 at 6pm at the ford in Llancarfan.

There will be singing of carols, mince pies and mulled wine (weather permitting).

The lights will be turned on by the winner of the Llancarfan Primary School painting competition (*to be announced*).

All welcome.

Shadows club meets

ON December 8, 8pm at the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth (029 2030 9979), the South Wales Shadows Club meets – play, bring your guitar, or just listen; all welcome.

Blockbusters at CineMemo!

THE Memo has opened its doors to its brand new 4k digital cinema, and CineMemo audiences can now see new blockbusters like Spectre and Lady in The Van, and fantastic, live streaming events on a spectacular mega-screen nine metre wide image, with dynamic 22 speaker 7.1 surround-sound system!

The new cinema in the Memo's theatre is the perfect setting for the forthcoming season of National Theatre Live, Royal Opera House and stage-to-screen live streaming events.

Exciting news indeed, for local theatre and school audiences, who won't have to travel to big city theatres – instead, they can see all these incredible live events locally at CineMemo.

Visit the Memo's website to sign-up to programme updates - you'll be the first to know what's on and get the chance to win one of the monthly give-away competitions.

CineMemo has 500 seats, a café bar to pick up popcorn or favorite treats, and is licensed for a beer or glass of wine to take to your seat, so make sure you support the Vales new local digital cinema.

- ***For further information, visit www.memoartscentre.co.uk; call the box office on 01446 738622; or email boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk***

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Cor Heol y March concert for Ty Hafan was a triumph

AT the recent Côr Heol y March concert for Ty Hafan, the children's hospice, the audience at a packed All Saints Church in Penarth heard a fantastic live performance by the S4C Choir of Wales of several songs from their new CD.

There were equally enthralling performances from guests Ellen Williams – a young soprano from Cowbridge – and Rhydian Jenkins, teenage tenor from Maesteg.

Musical director Eleri Roberts said: "The children worked very hard for the concert and were incredible on the evening, so focused and professional, and I am so proud of them.

"They fully deserve all the praise they received! And to share a stage with Ellen and Rhydian, especially for the final song Hafan Gobaith, which we all sang as a tribute to Ty Hafan's fantastic care for life limited children, was very memorable."

The choir has since been filming a Christmas episode of Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canol for S4C, and will be performing again in a concert at the All Saints Church in Penarth on December 5, as guests of Welsh soprano Shân Cothi.

Copies of the new CD, entitled Suon y Don (Murmur of the Waves), are available from the choir (corheolymarch@gmail.com) and can also be purchased from Sain records (www.sainwales.com), Amazon and iTunes.

With songs in Welsh, English, Latin and even Japanese, it's an ideal gift for Christmas!

JR

VALE RAMBLERS TAKE THE HIGH ROAD TO BRECON..!

AS part of the new winter programme, two walks were on offer by Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, both in the Brecon Beacons area.

For the more hardy of us, there was a 10-mile challenging walk, led by Helen Fletcher, but for those wanting a more gentle walk, there was also a stroll along the canal, led by Graham Woosnam.

The mountain walk started from the village of Pencelli and from there, the group made their way past Llaneugran church and crossing a field, they picked up the path which led up to the Bryn.

After catching their breath, the walk continued upwards, climbing Rhiw Bwlch y Ddwyallt, before turning east to reach the summit of Carn Pica.

The views were breathtaking from the top, and as the weather had turned colder, the mountain summits were covered in a layer of snow. After lunch, the descent was following Nant y Llamerch, before making their way back to the car.

The alternative walk, led by Graham, who due to ill health, has not been able to lead for a while, started from Llanfrynach.

After crossing fields, and marvelling at the views of Corn Du covered in snow, we made our way down to the canal; after a coffee break at Brynich Lock, the group followed the contour of the canal until we came to the village of Pencelli.

The weather was sunny, although cold, but our spirits were high as we enjoyed the peaceful quietness of the canal, seeing all the boats which have now been moored for the winter, and chatting to some boat owners who are in the process of winterising their boats.

The lunch stop was at Pencelli, the warmth of the local hostelry was welcomed, and they were very kind in allowing the group to eat their lunch in the beer garden.

Making our way back to Llanfrynach after lunch at a leisurely pace, on arrival at the village and making their way to the local hostelry for a swift half, both groups met up at Helen and Graham's home to enjoy a cup of tea and some lovely home baked cakes.

For further information regarding walks on offer, visit the Facebook page, or the group's website at: valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

Authentic family Christmas line-up at Dyffryn Gardens

ESCAPE the high street and spend this Christmas getting festive at Dyffryn Gardens.

You can see the house decorated with glowing lights and garlands, have a go at some festive crafts, hear some Christmas carols and visit a very special man in red!

Our activities and events run from the last weekend in November until Christmas Eve.

Father Christmas will be making a very special stop at Dyffryn this year. Visit him in his study in the beautifully decorated mansion away from busy shopping centres.

With timed tickets and lots of crafts to take part in while you're waiting, your family can avoid the queues entirely.

Visit him on the last weekend in November and the first two weeks of December between 11am and 3pm. He will be meeting each child and giving them a specially chosen gift.

You can pre book your tickets (£4 per child) by calling our visitor reception on 02920 590813. Normal admission prices apply to over-11s; under-11s receive free admission if visiting Father Christmas.

We've also got some free workshops for adults: make your own Christmas wreath with foliage taken from the gardens, make some felt snowmen to hang on your tree, or get the needle and thread out to make some lavender-stuffed chickens.

Workshops are free, but normal admission prices apply. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens for more information, or call 02920 590813.

Free TV licence for the over-75s

TV Licensing and Age UK is reminding people celebrating their 75th birthday in the next 12 months that they are entitled to a free TV licence.

Anyone aged 75 or over is granted a free TV Licence for their main address and over 4 million people across the UK already enjoy the benefits of the concession. Currently, 821 people in Llantwit Major, 3,798 in Barry, 873 in Cowbridge, 6,822 in Bridgend and 1,889 in Porthcawl have an over-75 licence.

The number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 89 per cent since 1974, with this age group now making up 8 per cent of the UK population and 11,480 people over 75 live in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Go to The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...

There's lots more online....

www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

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Hear some beautifully festive Christmas carols in the Great Hall and enjoy a glass of bubbly and a mince pie. Tickets £15.
We're open every day* so come and explore the gardens, pick up some Christmas gifts from our shop and taste our garden produce in the cafe.
*Closed 25, 26 December.

4, 11, 18 Rhagfyr 7.30pm
Gerddi Dyffryn

4, 11, 18 December 7.30pm
Dyffryn Gardens

Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol
National Trust

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens
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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Specialist services will give you that boost – and more than ever at Christmas time!

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for the modern age – somewhere to get your 'tech' repairs done.

VFM'S reputation is growing throughout south Wales because it is a cash and carry for the trade and public that keeps its prices as low as possible. Based in Palmerston, VFM has always got lots of meat deals and supplies all the other grocery essentials too.

Allison of Allison's Celebration Cakes with a festive Santa creation.

CARDIFF ROAD, Cadoxton and Palmerston in Barry are home to lots of specialist, independent – and more often than not family – businesses providing great, realiable services to the public.

At any time of the year they provide invaluable support – at this time of year, they are a godsend. People want help on their doorstep and that's what they provide.

Businesses are more optimistic that economic growth can be sustained – but, of course, nothing is guaranteed, and the business owners The GEM visited are nothing if not determined to provide the very best in products and services.

One business that has been warmly received in the last year has been the **Vale Veterinary Centre at 7-8 Ty Verlon estate**.

It has proved hugely popular with local people since it was opened by Dr Richard Williams.

Richard explained: "We offer exceptional veterinary care and an impeccable service at either the surgery or at your home 24 hours a day."

Word of the Vale Veterinary Centre has spread and Richard and his staff now help clients from throughout the Vale including Barry, Sully and Dinas Powys.

The centre has ample parking. To book an appointment, call 01446 739739; and for more information, go to www.valevetcentre.co.uk.

CLASSICAL

What reinvigorates an area is entrepreneurs setting up new businesses and **Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road** is a case in point.

Kayleigh and Jessica have created a stylish, bright, classically decorated salon that deals in hairdressing for women, men and children.

One bride recently commented on Facebook: "I would like to thank Bliss Hair Designs for making the start to my wedding day a perfect way to begin.

"My hair and the hair of my maid of honour was beautiful and stayed in all day and the extra touches were brilliant – nothing was too much trouble and Kayleigh did everything we asked for."

Jessica told The GEM: "We opened on June 22 and it has gone really, really well. We've had a lot of support from people locally."

Christmas appointments are booking up quickly, but there's still time to book by calling 01446 677050. For more information on Bliss Hair Design go to Facebook.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for the modern age.

Amer, the owner, who has a background in technology and working for top companies like Vodafone and Virgin Media, and who was the first triallist of cable modem broadband in Wales, provides a repair and sell business in 'tech' products.

If you've got a problem with a computer, a tablet, mobile phone, a laptop or a console, Amer is there to help. The business also does TV repairs. Sometimes people think their product is damaged beyond repair, such as in the case of a broken mobile phone screen. But Amer can help – and save you buying a new phone!

Amer said: "If we are doing a phone repair, we also give a customer a courtesy phone with a sim adaptor."

Amer can also build computers to 'spec', saving customers unwanted extra costs in paying for things they don't need. He'll also test it prior to delivery.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support stocks a huge range of accessories, so for all your 'tech' products, just drop in to pick up what you need.

The business also has a Data Protection licence so you know that you are in good hands. For more information ring 01446 733721; email info@pcnmobiles.co.uk; or visit, www.pcnmobiles.co.uk.

LAST ORDERS

The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

'Made to measure' take around three weeks, and 'ready made' 10 days, so there is still time to get some rooms, or a particular room, sorted out in time for Christmas. The cut off date for orders is Friday, December 4.

Allison's Celebration Cakes on Barry Road has been at the heart of Cadoxton for 26 years.

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cake boards in lots of different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters.

Allison creates all sorts of wonderful cakes with unique designs for weddings, christenings, birthdays, anniversaries – and even divorces.

Last Friday, when The GEM arrived to have a look at her latest creations, Allison had already packed them away for her Friday evening at St Mary's Church Hall, Wenvoe, with Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club. But she kindly, rushed off to the car and unveiled one of the cakes for a festive photo.

Barry and Cardiff Sugarcraft Club meets on the third Friday of the month in Wenvoe and people can go to the club's Facebook page for more information.

TOP NOSH!

Allan's Family Fish Bar has built up a huge following in Barry over the last 15 years. Allan relocated to **Vere Street** after running the Chippy on the Bridge in Ely.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

The Vale Veterinary Centre at 7-8 Ty Verlon estate. It has proved hugely popular with local people since it was opened by Dr Richard Williams.

Allan Payne of Allan's Family Fish Bar is a local legend in Cadoxton – you've got to be when you're giving mum a night off from the cooking!

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Remember…"Its where the best clothes hang out"

CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Victoria Park's carol service for Macmillan

IF you like to get a feel for Christmas, enjoy the build up, love the traditions and want to get well into the spirit of Christmas, come along to Victoria Park at 6pm on the evening of Friday, December 11.

A spokesman said: "Join us for a fun evening singing along to Christmas carols and modern Christmas songs in the lovely surrounds of Victoria Park.

"The fabulous Barry Brass Band, led by the brilliant Julie Mahoney are very happy to present the seventh Annual Carol Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

"Carols begin at 6pm and we will have song sheets for all, so come along, and bring your best singing voice with you. Enjoy all your old favourites, bring the whole family and all your friends and start to feel very Christmassy.

"Thanks to Cadoxton Bowling club we have the use of their lovely clubhouse and Rowena and the team will have cakes, tea, coffee, cakes and buns, warm soup and rolls all ready to keep you warm and in good voice.

"All proceeds from the event will go directly to Macmillan, so do come and have a great evening, and support a very worthy cause. Last year over £600 was raised, so let's see if we can beat it!"

Parks manager Jon Greatrex said: "I always start to feel like Christmas is here whenever I hear Christmas carols, and the atmosphere is even more special when this event comes around.

"Last year was loads of fun so this year we hope to make it better than ever! Rowena and all the Barry Brass Band team work so hard to make this happen. And, I promise NOT to sing, as long as everyone else does instead!

"Many thanks to Cadoxton Bowls Club for the use of their pavilion facilities and all the Victoria Park team are so pleased to be able to help out with this super event, do come and support it. Merry Christmas!"

The carol service for Macmillan Cancer Care will run from 6pm – 8pm. If you would like further information about Victoria Park or any events contact Jon Greatrex, Victoria Park Manager on 07742 571000/01446 709580. Google: Victoria Park, Barry; FaceBook: Victoria Park, Barry – What's Occurring?

Serving the local community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

He offers a varied menu, including fish and chips, Clark's pies, kebabs, southern fried chicken and curries – all served with a cheery smile and lots of laughter.

Allan said: "We serve people from Barry, Wenvoe and Sully – and can also do home deliveries which are free if the order is over £7."

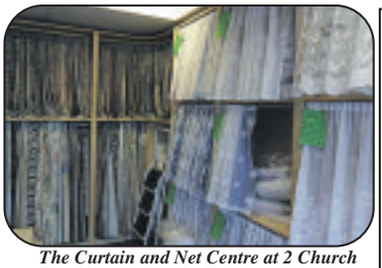
People can either eat in the fish bar or take their order away.

On the day The GEM visited Allan, customers were enjoying watching the cricket on Sky Sports.

Why not be kind to yourself in the run-up to Christmas and order the evening meal from Alan and save yourself time slaving over the cooker – that's what the fish bar is there for.

Steve's Barbers on Vere Street, Cadoxton provides top quality cuts for men. The shop is open six days a week: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 12 noon; Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday 9am to 5.30pm; and Saturday 8am to 3pm. Steve wants to wish all customers 'The compliments of the season'.

Two local entrepreneurs, Kayleigh and Jessica, have opened Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road, Barry. The interior design is light, bright and classical. To book a Christmas appointment, you can call them on 01446 677050.



The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Salon Caprice says 'Happy Christmas to all our clients'

Salon Caprice has been serving the people of Barry since 1975. This year the salon will be open until 3pm on Christmas Eve. Nicola, and the staff, want to wish all their customers a "Very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year".

A Happy anniversary at 'The Barrygate'

Staff at The Barrygate celebrated the business's first anniversary on November 20. The Barrygate features the best in Bangladeshi cuisine and is located at the top of Main Street.

Bliss Hair Design
Unisex Hair Salon
Kayleigh & Jessica
Would like to wish all clients
A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
Now Taking Christmas Bookings
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Find us on Facebook

Bliss Hair Design at 5 Church Road is a popular new addition to Cadoxton. The owners, Kayleigh and Jessica want to thank local people for their support since opening in June.

There's so much on at Cadoxton's Victoria Park all year round!

So apart from a good walk, what can you do at Victoria Park in Cadoxton?

PLAY – in the well-equipped play park, or run around on the grass in the safe 'traffic free' gardens.

SPORT – soccer and basketball in the multi court. If it's quiet you can skate or cycle as well – the staff don't mind.

BOWLS with Cadoxton Bowls Club.

There's a running track on the field during June, July and August

MUSIC – there's Cadstock, the outdoor Rock and Blues event! The Voices in the Park event; brass band concerts; a Christmas carol concert!

SPECIAL EVENTS – Charity Fun Dog Show; The Mount Pleasant Summer Jamboree; Flying Start Family Fun Day; Play Rangers; Easter Hunts and Quizzes; Halloween Monsters Ball; charity events

EDUCATION – Local school visits; nursery group nature play; story telling group; school sports days; nature and nest box days

EXHIBITIONS – In 'The Room in the Park'.

A small team of staff keep the gardens looking good and, helped by the local community and the ever supportive Friends of Victoria Park group, it is able to bring together a varied and comprehensive series of events throughout the year.

Park manager and Green Flag co-ordinator Jon Greatrex said: "Victoria Park has gained a name for outdoor events and general loveliness that reaches far beyond the local community of Cadoxton.

"At the recent Heritage Lottery Fund/Green Flag Awards, Victoria Park was held up as an example of good practice on a national scale.

"That sure is nice, but I'm more proud that locally we are still known as the 'Parkies at Caddy Park'. Come along and visit Victoria Park, Cadoxton, it's become our community's little green gem."

Don't miss the Scout post at Roy's Toys

Roy's Toys on Main Street is a must visit shop at Christmas – with all the toys, cards, wrapping and Christmas accessories you could possibly need. The shop has been making Christmas special for the people of Barry for 31 years. So what are the stand-out pressies for children this year. Carol said: "It's Avengers for the boys and still Frozen for the girls – and branded toys like Peppa Pig remain popular." Carol also hosts a Scout Christmas post box. Deliveries are across the Vale and Cardiff. Last posting is December 7!

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PARACHUTE JUMP RAISES FUNDS FOR LATCH CHARITY

ON Sunday, November 22 Zowie Smith, Julie David, Helen Davies, Sophie Hemsley, and little Paul Davies from the Swan Inn, Nottage, Porthcawl completed a daring parachute jump in aid of LATCH, the Welsh children's cancer charity.

This is a charity close to my own heart as I had a large brain tumour removed as a child in the 1970s, and no such support seemed available at that time.

The aim is to raise enough funds to purchase a caravan at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl (Karavan 4the Kidz) for respite, to help the children and their families through traumatic times.

A number of events over the coming weeks will boost the funds further: these include Rock 'N'Roll Bingo on Sunday, November 29 at 6pm; a fun quiz on December 6 at 6pm; a 'Mr & Mrs' quiz on December 13 at 6pm, and a Christmas jumper competition on Sunday, December 20, again at 6pm.

All are welcome to come along and join in the fun to raise money for such a worthy cause.

If you would like to donate to the charity, your help in raising vital funds would be gratefully accepted: www.latchwales.org.

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Story of a 'rugby spellbound people'

IF you are looking for a rugby book to buy a loved one for Christmas, Gwyn Prescott's *The Birth of Rugby in Cardiff and Wales* (published by St David's Press at £16.99), could fit the bill.

Wales fell in love with rugby union more than 100 years ago, and this feeling is as intense today as it was in the late 1800s.

How well I remember my uncles Jackie and Phillip Donovan taking me with them every Saturday afternoon in the late 1940s and early 1950s and the banter that would go on between supporters on the packed stands.

I wonder whatever happened to all those blue coloured programmes I collected week after week? Had I held on to them they would no doubt be worth a few bob today!

The Welsh obsession with rugby was already evident in 1899 when supporters packed Cardiff's Westgate Street, where once the River Taff ran through, from wall to wall for a Triple Crown decider against Ireland.

An advocate of soccer in the town commented in 1901: "*To carry one of those funny round balls through the streets meant running the gauntlet of curious onlookers*."

Rugby was undoubtedly the sporting heartbeat of Cardiff, with more than 230 clubs in 1895 the year the first Welsh Grand National was held at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse.

But how did this obsession with rugby grip Cardiff and the industrial towns of south Wales, and why did the Welsh quickly beome *'this rugby spellbound people'*?

In this new, expanded and heavily illustrated book, Gwyn Prescott draws on previously unused sources to provide a fresh and fascinating insight into the origins and early years of the game in Cardiff.

He outlines how its citizens of all backgrounds, its many distinct districts, and its commercial and religious interests took rugby to their hearts through the establishment of the famous Arms Park as the focal point of rugby in Wales.

This well researched book by Prescott, who played alongside Gareth Edwards in the 1965 Welsh Secondary Schools team and who later played for Cambridge University, has a foreword by Gareth Williams who writes: *'The incomparable Bleddyn (Williams) would have enjoyed reading Gwyn Prescott's book. So will you.'*

It is a must for any rugby fan worth their salt!

BOOK REVIEW by Brian Lee

RNLI concert is a chance to give something back!

WHAT will you be doing a month before Christmas? Frantically fretting about unbought gifts? Stressing to meet those pre-Yuletide work deadlines? Or generally feeling worn out by all the commercial festive faff?

If any of those apply to you, why not take time away from it all and indulge in a relaxing, restorative musical evening, with melodies and exquisite voices to soothe your seasonally-saturated soul? In doing so, you will also be supporting an invaluable Porthcawl institution.

Porthcawl Lifeboats celebrate 50 years of lifesaving at sea with a special concert at All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl on Saturday, November 28 at 7pm, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the heroic work performed by this station, which was the busiest in Wales last year.

As part of their anniversary celebrations, the station was visited by the Princess Royal earlier this year, in honour of its outstanding work and all the fearless, selfless crew members, who constantly put their own lives on the line, to save the lives of others.

So do, please, come along and give your backing to this worthy organisation, run by such hardworking volunteers, some of whom have won prestigious awards, not only for courageous sea rescues, but also for tireless fundraising.

The concert features the brilliant Noteworthy Mixed Choir, along with superb soprano soloist Angharad Morgan. There will be music to suit all tastes, from Puccini to Richard Rogers, from arrangements of famous Welsh hymn tunes to a Liszt piano solo and a cello solo.

Refreshments will be served in the interval and there is, of course, a raffle! Local dignitaries will also be attending. Tickets are available from Maple and Little Maple in John Street and from Koko in Well Street. Tickets are £10 with all profit going to the RNLI in Porthcawl. There will also be tickets on the door.

For more information, contact Judith Shawe on 01656 786446. The organisers look forward to seeing you there, helping to boost vital funds for an organisation which, often in appalling and dangerous weather conditions, has given – and continues to give – such an outstanding service to the people of Porthcawl and beyond.

Amidst all the commercial frenzy, this is just what Christmas should be about. You will leave refreshed and humbled and indebted to these marvellous men and women. And with such a rich musical feast, you will not go home disappointed. See you there!

CAROLINE SARLL

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Jon Ian's penguins are keeping a close eye on passers-by!

The Reindeer Parade is almost here – and it's still the best!

by PHILIP IRWIN

COWBRIDGE'S key contribution to the festive season – the Reindeer Parade – will be back again with added extras this Sunday, November 29.

As the day has grown in popularity, so traders in the town have opened for business on the Sunday, and many try to offer something special on the day.

For instance, this year, there will be a farmers' market and craft fair, and many retailers will have 'one day only' special offers.

The town's chamber of trade was the first in south Wales to put on a reindeer parade, and the event has attracted large crowds in recent years.

The chairman of the chamber of trade, Alun John, told The GEM that in recent years it had been a case of 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' as the event has increased in popularity.

He said: "This is the chamber's way of saying 'thank you' to the customers who have supported us over the year.

"As in previous years, the local Lions club will be collecting for charity, and all the money raised this year will go to local children's charities.

"We had assistance once again from the Vale Council, and the barriers were sponsored this year by the estate agents, PA Black."

Enjoying its first year in business is Vale Cider, and owner Nick Craddock told The GEM that he would be offering a festive drink on the day – a hot mulled cider.

He said: "This is a special drink just for this time of year, and we will be selling bottles to take home if people enjoy it.

"We will also be selling our two regular types of cider – a medium dry and a medium sweet."

Another business that has embraced Reindeer Parade day is Colours, on Eastgate, which is run by Julie Jeans.

Julie stocks a wide range of goods, including ball gowns, mother-of-bride outfits, as well as hats, bags and shoes.

Julie said: "We are offering 10 per cent off for the day, so it is well worth taking a stroll up to Eastgate!"

Another business offering something special for the day is Pocketful of Presents, which is just behind the town hall. Owner Emily Osborne has always opened for Reindeer Day, and enjoys seeing the town so busy.

She said: "We will be open from 10am to 4pm, and we are offering 20 per cent off everything in the store!"

Back in Eastgate, Sally Stephenson in The Pencil Case is running an unusual Christmas service.

She said: "We have a 'letter to Santa' mailbox, so that children can go somewhere private and write down what they want, and then I can email the parents to let them know if they are on the right lines!"

At Jon Ian in the High Street, owner Esther Hitchcock is offering 10 per cent off one particular product line – weather-proof boots from Dubary of Ireland.

She also has a new line with winter in mind – bobble hats with interchangeable bobbles in every colour under the rainbow!

You can easily spot Jon Ian's display of penguins in their shop window. Esther says they have "happy feet" – as do any customers who get their footwear from Jon Ian.

There will be snow on the day – guaranteed by Beagles Country Kitchen in Old Mason's Yard near the town hall.

The creperie offers a huge variety of both sweet and savoury crepes, and other hot dishes too.

Chris Biggs, the head chef and manager, said: "We are bringing along a snow machine to provide an early White Christmas.

"Come along and join us. You can eat in, eat out (on the bridge), or take away."

As in previous years, the parade itself is scheduled to start at 12 noon. After the parade, there will be a chance for children to see the reindeer close up.

Helping will be the members of Latinist Major and Coleridge Lions Club and friends, including members of Coleridge Rotary Club.

They will be acting as stewards, and collecting for charity. The Lions will also be selling tasty burgers from their stall behind the town hall.

Following the Reindeer Parade, Santa will be in his Grotto to meet the children. This is also a hugely popular part of the day and, to avoid long queues, it is ticket only.

A Lions' spokesman said: "The tickets for Santa's Grotto can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come, first served' basis from 11.am. Each ticket will grant access to one family, but please remember that the number of tickets is strictly limited, since Santa can only stay for a short time.

"He will be in his Grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm and tickets will be allocated for slots between these times.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience, a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

The day, as usual, will culminate with the switching on of the Christmas lights, at around 5pm.

Also, don't forget that over this weekend, Holy Cross Church is holding its Christmas Tree Festival, so the charming church will be filled with around 60 imaginatively decorated Christmas trees!

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The Magic of Cowbridge

Reindeer Parade

Sunday 29th November

Farmers' market on reindeer day

Romeo the miniature pony (see left) will be at the farmers' market.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market will be in Cowbridge for the Reindeer Parade on Sunday, November 29.

There will be 30 stalls, many selling locally produced food, to take home and cook, or to eat on the day.

The market will be expanded for the day, including local arts and crafters.

Market spokeswoman Myfanwy Edwards said: "To give you a taste of what to expect, there will be beef, lamb and duck burgers, home-made soup, crepes, wood-fired pizza, bacon rolls, pies and pasties.

"Add to that beer, cider, seaweed gin, chocolates, cakes, chutneys, eggs, Welsh cheeses, cordials and pasta.

"In the craft line, there will be alpaca scarves, hats and shawls, hand-made felt items, upcycled gifts made from wood, wool and willow, wooden craft items and dog related gifts and treats."

She continued: "The market will be open from 10am until 2pm and, to keep the children entertained while they wait for Santa to arrive, there will be a children's play area with lots of activities, plus a reindeer hunt around the stalls.

"Coming for his annual outing is Romeo the miniature pony, so there will be something for all the family.

"Do come and visit us to get into the festive spirit, and prepare for your 'local Christmas'.

For more information, go to www.valefarmersmarket.com

JRC

Open 10am-4pm

Sunday 29th November

Enjoy the Reindeer Parade & some festive Christmas Shopping at JRC

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24 Days Of Christmas.

Looking back on last year's parade...

Images by MIKE WILCOCK

IS that a BBC news presenter masquerading at one of Santa's elves last year? It might well be!

As you can see from Mike Wilcock's pictures of Reindeer Day last year, everyone had a wonderful time.

Expect another stand out event this year with people travelling from as far afield as west Wales and England to enjoy the festive fun.

Get all the coverage from the Reindeer Parade in your weekly GEM and online!

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk

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A Fabulous Family Day ...SUNDAY 29th November COWBRIDGE Chamber of Trade is pleased to present...

Their Famous Reindeer Parade & Celebrity Light Switch On with RUTH WIGNALL with LUCY and RHODRI OWEN

Plus Christmas Farmers/Craft Market

10.00am *Participating shops open in the town, live music from RAF St Athan Brass Band plus local bands and choirs and entertainment including a fun fair in the town all day*

11.30am *Children who wish to join parade, meet at United Free Church in nativity fancy dress*

12 noon *Reindeer Parade down the main high street*

2.00pm *Reindeer behind town hall for all to see and Father Christmas Grotto open in Town Hall*

4.45pm *Ruth Wignall, with Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen, will officially turn on the Christmas Lights sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge Chamber of Trade*

www.cowbridgeguide.co.uk

The Glamorgan GEM *is proud to have instigated and supported this popular event*

Christmas has come early in Bridgend County Borough...

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CHRISTMAS TIME IN DINAS POWYS

Dinas Powys... A VILLAGE FOR ALL SEASONS – ESPECIALLY CHRISTMAS!

ABOVE: Dinas Powys Brownies marked Remembrance Day at the village Cenotaph.

The Royal India Bar and Brasserie at 213 Cardiff Road has brought the very best in Indian cuisine to Dinas Powys.

ONE of the things many people yearn for is 'the village life' – the sense of community, continuity and safety. How can we explain popular programmes like 'Escape to the Country' unless we accept that there is a difference between city or town dwelling and the smaller tighter-knit village?

But for a village to be a success in community terms, it has to have meeting places and businesses helping with those essentials.

The Three Horseshoes in the heart of the village is a classic traditional pub, with its cosy log fire, choice of cask ales and regular toe-tapping entertainment evenings, featuring hits of the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

Dinas Powys, with four main locations hosting businesses – the old village, Cardiff Road, Camms Corner and Castle Drive – scores highly on local services.

Sig and Viv's Natural Pet Pantry on Elm Grove Road, just a stone's throw from the centre of the old village, has just celebrated its first anniversary.

The owners, Tony and Caryn Lynch set themselves the task of running a business dedicated to making sure dogs got the very best food possible. And why not? They are, after all, man's best friend!

Many people are concerned about the quality of food they give their dogs, and Tony and Caryn found themselves in that position when they were caring for their daughter's dog Selsig (Sig), who had a long-term skin complaint, despite various treatments from the vet. They researched pet nutrition in an attempt to find a cure.

Tony explained: "I couldn't believe some of the scandalous practices that I came across in the pet food industry. Processing, labelling, dodgy ingredients and nasty preservatives were just some of the issues I came across.

"We changed Sig's diet, feeding him Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF) and within three months his skin condition cleared completely and he hasn't been back to the vet since."

The experience encouraged Tony and Caryn to open up Sig and Vivs Natural Pet Pantry on October 11, 2014.

Tony said: "We are not a normal pet shop. We provide high-quality natural dog food, along with lots of in-depth advice. We supply dog food as nature intended!"

The shop is the only stockist of Gentle dog food in the whole of Wales! The cold-pressing technique preserves the nutritionally important ingredients of the food, and the process creates food in which natural enzymes and vitamins are retained. There are other top dog food names as well, such as Canaghan and Natural Instinct.

Tony's enthusiasm and knowledge is something to behold. The couple's own dog, Shelby, a rescue animal from Cardiff, suffered from a skin condition, too, but is now in fine fettle – thanks to a new diet

Tony said: "When we started, we had three freezers of food; now we've got six. People travel from as far away as Newport, Ebbw Vale and Porthcawl to buy their dog food here."

The shop also has a wide range of dog accessories – doggy towels, leads, bowls, coats, dirty dog doormats – as well as five-star treats.

One celebrity client, who pops in to get his dog the very best, is Sam Warburton.

You can look the business up on Facebook, or at www.sigandvivs.com; for more information, go to 02920 515141.

Community Hub

The White Gecko Craft Lounge

This popular new community hub at 13 Camms Corner has captured the imagination of local people, who like the relaxed craft shop and coffee shop mix and its friendly atmosphere.

Although it opened only a few weeks ago, the residents have already welcomed it as a new meeting place in Dinas Powys.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Shutter Hire Photography at Camms Corner can take that much-treasured family portrait.

Crafty Art in Dinas is ready for Christmas.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

DICKENSIAN FAYRE – DINAS POWYS

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER 2015

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 4th December 2015	**Station Road** from its junction with Britway Road adjacent to The Square, to the vehicle access to the Star Hotel (both sides of The Twyn). Local diversions shall be in place via The Mount and Britway Road.	5.00pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 26th day of November 2015

M. E. Punter, Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

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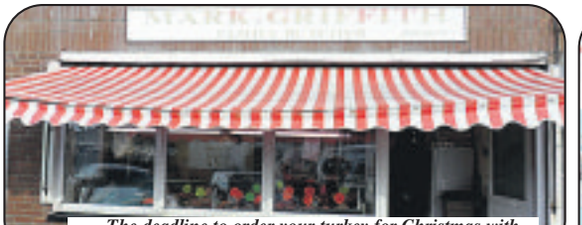
Christmas Time in Dinas Powys

Don't forget Dickensian Fayre!

Caryn and Shelby of Sig and Viv's Natural Pet Pantry recommend 'the very best for your pets...naturally'.



The deadline to order your turkey for Christmas with Mark Griffith Family Butcher is Friday, December 18.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Run by Sian, Sarah and Sara, it is a popular place for people who love arts and crafts and want help to develop their own skills. The ladies stock all the necessary items to help people keen to have a go.

The three entrepreneurs run workshops in a host of activities including quilting, knitting, crochet, making wreaths. There are after school clubs for youngsters – a Halloween one was held recently for kids. Mums and Dads should note that another drop-in day is planned on Tuesday, December 22 (10am to 4pm) at which children can make Santa sacks!

For more information, call 02921 152628; *www.whitegeckoevents.co.uk*.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS!

Mark Griffith, Dinas Powys's butcher, always has a fantastic range of choice cuts, fresh eggs, and specials like 'minted lamb steaks' and 'Chinese pork'.

Mark, who has served the local community for 38 years, knows many of his customers by name.

When The GEM called he was enjoying a chat with one of his regulars about the latest news in the rugby. Make sure you order your turkey soon – the cut-off date is Friday, December 18.

DINING

The Royal India Bar and Brasserie at 213 Cardiff Road has brought the very best in Indian cuisine to Dinas Powys.

There's a great, wide-ranging menu with starters; tandoori specialities; chicken, lamb, biryani, vegetarian and seafood dishes.

There are also 'chef's recommendations'. To book, or for more information call 02920 513800.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Shutter Hire Photography at Camms Corner is an opportunity to treat your loved-one or loved-little-ones to a photo session with an award-winning photographer.

It's a great local place to get your family portraits done – and they often make a great Christmas present. For more information, call 07703 774166.

DICKENSIAN FAYRE

Don't forget that Dinas Powys's celebrated Dickensian Fayre will be held on Friday, December 4 this year.

Lots of Christmas presents for sale and a true start to the festive season!

The White Gecko Craft Lounge is a popular new community hub at 13 Camms Corner.

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Come & make a Santa sack ready for Christmas Eve!
Drop in session - £1 per child (all ages welcome)
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All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Bengal Shamoli Chicken tikka, minced meat and green beans cooked in green chillies, green pepper, onion and fresh coriander, served with	£5.85
Nikunjo Ruposhi - Fairly Hot Chicken tikka cooked with sliced green chillies, black pepper, onion, green pepper, ginger, coriander, topped with onion rings	£5.70
Joyintha Paharia Breast chicken fillets cooked with potatoes, cauliflower, green pepper, cream, yoghurt and a touch of exotic spices.	£5.40
Modhu Bhosanti Chicken tikka cooked in onions, green peppers in a rich creamy sauce, yoghurt, mango and nuts	£5.40
Zhall Misti Thok Murghi - Fairly hot Tandoori chicken cooked with egg, minced meat, mustard sauce, very special spices and herbs including onions, green pepper; tomato; fresh coriander, garlic, sour and yoghurt thick spicy sauce	£5.95
Fhalguni Bhujon Chicken tikka, lamb tikka, sliced & cooked in minced meat, mustard sauce, onions, mixed peppers, egg, tomato and fresh coriander	£5.85
Mugli Akbori Chingri - Fairly hot Tiger prawns cooked in onions, peppers, tomato, fresh coriander, garlic, ginger, yoghurt	£7.60
Rajony Gondha Chicken tikka, cooked with very special spices and herbs including onions, mixed peppers, tomato, garden mint, fresh coriander, garlic, ginger, yoghurt in a rich tangy sauce	£5.85

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CHRISTMAS TIME IN DINAS POWYS

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

A classic view of Dinas Powys showing the park in the old village and the Cenotaph.

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Big challenges ahead to find £25m cuts in services

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I BEGIN this month's column by reflecting on the issues that are currently facing the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as we head into the budget rounds for another year.

Unfortunately, as usual we have to look at the services that we are able to provide as a council, against the ever-depleting financial support from the UK Government and thereafter from the Welsh Government.

Normally, at this time of the year during the budget-setting process, we know roughly how much money in the rate support grant we will get for the next financial year. However, this year that is not the case.

As I write this piece, I await with bated breath the announcement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his comprehensive spending review on Wednesday, November 25. However, I don't expect good news, although I hope that I am wrong.

Once this is known, we will still have to wait until January 8 before the Welsh Government announce their spending plans, which will include the amount of money they will allocate to this council.

In the meantime, we will be making some assumptions, and for those interested in the stark reality of the council's dilemma you will find it outlined in the initial financial budget reports to the cabinet dated November 16 on the council's website.

Leaving that aside, and realising it's only a few weeks until Christmas, I have been reviewing the line-up of council-supported events for the 2015 festive season. ..

I am really pleased to confirm that over the past few months, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's economic development team has been working to put together a programme of events that will see the Vale's town centres and shopping streets become a hive of activity this December.

Therefore, to help make this a reality and assist in enabling our town centres and shopping areas to prosper, the council's team of officers have worked with communities and organisations, across the Vale of Glamorgan, to find ways of encouraging shoppers to visit and explore what's on offer.

At the beginning of the festive season we will be helping by supporting the Christmas light switch-on celebrations in all of the Vale's towns and a number of our villages, too.

Everyone involved has worked to pull out all the stops this year and collectively we have put together a series of events that I hope will be bigger and better than ever before.

The programme of festivities kicks off with the High Street Christmas Light Switch-On in Barry this Friday (November 27). So wrap up warm and come along and enjoy festive street entertainers, live music and meet Santa and his reindeer.

After this, Santa's next stop will be Llantwit Major on Saturday (November 28) to enjoy live music, a lantern parade and to see the town's lights switched on at 7pm.

On the same day, King Square, Barry will once again come to life with a spectacular 3D Christmas projection show transforming the town hall building.

Last year, the display was acclaimed in the national press as the best Christmas lights switch-on in Wales and we are hoping to make this year's event bigger and better.

The Christmas atmosphere will start at 12 noon with live music, festive street entertainers and street artists as well as a Christmas market featuring local traders. The 10-minute projection show will start at 5pm and features a festive story with music and jolly Christmas images.

Then we will count down to the big switch-on of the Holton Road lights. Both the light show and the switch-on will be introduced by local hero and current IBF featherweight champion Lee Selby.

This will be the Vale's showpiece event and I am very confident that we can build on last year's success and bring even more people to King Square.

Sunday (November 29) will see a very busy Father Christmas and his real live reindeer return to the ever-loved Cowbridge reindeer parade.

GEM readers who attend will be able to enjoy food stalls and a play village, before the Christmas lights are switched on at 5:15pm. On the same day, the Penarth Christmas Festival will also be getting under way.

The festival starts with a parade at 1.45pm at West House and the festival will include nativity scenes, live music and entertainment, plus of course another appearance by Santa.

The lights at this event will be switched on at 5pm. At the same time, in St Athan, Behnaz Akhgar, BBC Wales weather presenter, will be turning on the village's Christmas lights as part of an event which starts at 3pm and features festive street entertainers, live music, mulled wine and mince pies.

Once the town centres and high streets across the Vale are lit with Christmas cheer, the council will continue to support a series of events designed to encourage business and the shopping experience on offer at our unique shops and enterprises.

First up will be the traditional Dickensian Christmas fayre in Dinas Powys on Friday, December 4. This long-running event in the heart of the old village is a great antidote to city centre crowds.

This is equally true of the Christmas artisan market taking place on Saturday, December 5 on Barry's High Street and of the Crafts for Christmas event at St Donat's Castle on Sunday, December 6.

All of these events should mean the Vale is fully into the Christmas spirit by the time the 'Let It Snow' event returns to Central Park in Barry on Saturday, December 12. For one day only, the park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops. This is an excellent family day out and I hope many of you will be there.

To help boost local trade and, hopefully, make the challenge of Christmas shopping a little easier, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is supporting traders in Penarth and Cowbridge in their festive late night shopping nights.

Both town centres offer something very different and I am delighted we have been able to work with them to give shoppers the chance to see all they have to offer at a time that is often more convenient.

You can visit shops in Cowbridge until 8pm on Thursday, December 10 and shops in Penarth until the same time on Thursday, December 17.

Finally, for all of those residents who find themselves still searching for gifts as the big day approaches there will be one last big local shopping event in Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 19.

Shoppers can browse at craft and gift stalls for some last minute Christmas presents while enjoying festive music and entertainment at the town's shopping precinct.

These events are great examples of how the Vale of Glamorgan Council works to support local businesses and traders. Thriving local businesses have long been part of the fabric of the Vale and are something that this council will continue to work to see flourish.

Finally, and I am sorry to refer back to finances, but before anyone criticises my comments about supporting town centres, I can confirm that as a council we will be seriously reconsidering if (and it's a big if), we should introduce car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge town centres, after having conversations with local traders and business people in both towns.

Instead, we will be looking at it again and working with both town councils to come to a solution, if there is one, as it is clear that there are concerns and I obviously understand why that is the case.

However, we also have to realise that providing car parking throughout the Vale of Glamorgan costs about £350,000 a year which is equivalent to roughly increasing the council tax by slightly less than 1 per cent.

This is just to maintain and keep them open. As town centre car parking is not one of the council's statutory duties (something we are legally required to do) and neither is it one of our priorities in spending, particularly in the current financial climate, clearly we have to find alternative ways of keeping them open and finding alternative cuts elsewhere to balance the books.

I began this column by saying things will not be easy next year and beyond and finding at least £25m of cuts in services in the next three years will be difficult.

However, be assured, we will set priorities that will achieve the best results and services within our limited resources.

Has anyone seen Tarzan?

PODS have, unfortunately, mislaid the star of their forthcoming family panto, *Tarzan*, and they are asking for help from the good people of Penarth to return him to the stage of the Paget Rooms in time for opening night on Thursday, December 3.

Tarzan is described as being... *"over six foot tall with unkempt brown hair and an unusual gait, which has been put down to the fact that he has been brought up by a family of apes".*

PODS are very concerned for his welfare as last seen, he was wearing only a loin-cloth, which is unsuitable for the recent cold weather.

His best friend, Cheetah, is so upset by his disappearance that he has not eaten a banana in days.

After a number of possible sightings reported, there are strong rumours that he might reappear in the Penarth Christmas parade at 3pm on Sunday (November 29).

Anyone seeing him there is asked to direct him immediately towards the Paget Rooms.

Everyone is invited to find out whether Tarzan is found safe and well by coming to the Paget Rooms at 7.30pm on Thursday or Friday night!

Tickets for 'Tarzan' are available from Tenovus, Windsor Road, www.pods-penarth.org or 02920 712260.

KIM HERNIMAN

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SAUNDERS LEWIS: *'Time to sweep away character assassination,'* says speaker

RIGHT: The plaque is unveiled in Penarth, at the one time home of Saunders Lewis, by Lord (Dafydd) Wigley, former Plaid Cymru MP and AM, *second from left.*

A BLUE plaque has been unveiled at the Penarth home of Saunders Lewis – to mark his contribution to the literary and political life of Wales in the 20th century.

Mr Lewis was a leading playwright, poet, historian and literary critic and also a founder member of Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

The plaque was unveiled by former Plaid MP and Assembly Member Dafydd Wigley at Westbourne Road, where Mr Lewis lived for more than 30 years until his death in 1985.

Guests were welcomed by Adrian Roper, who chairs the Penarth branch of Plaid Cymru, and by Granville John, the current householder, who has preserved some of Mr Lewis' furniture in his study.

Assembly Member Bethan Jenkins, the party's culture spokesperson, said Mr Lewis had been at the very heart of the party and was a key part of the party's history.

Lord Wigley thanked Mr John for allowing the plaque to be put up at Mr Lewis' old home. He said Saunders Lewis had made history and he referred to his extensive contributions to many fields of Welsh life in the last century.

Guests at the ceremony included two grand-daughters of Mr Lewis, Siwan Jones and Bethan Elen Jones, and Siwan's son, Sion. They were joined by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and party members and supporters, including chief executive Rhuanedd Richards and members of the party's history society.

In the evening, Dafydd Wigley gave a speech on Saunders Lewis, Plaid Cymru and Europe, linking Mr Lewis' vision of Wales taking its rightful place as a European nation, with the current debate on membership of the European Union.

Lord Wigley also said it was high time to sweep away the campaign of character assassination which had been waged against Mr Lewis over the years.

Describing him as "one of the giants of Wales", he said: "It is always important that a nation remembers its leaders in the fields of literature, drama, history, philosophy, religion or politics and Saunders Lewis was a leader in all these six spheres of Welsh life in the middle part of the 20th century.

"It is particularly timely that we should at this juncture – as we face a referendum on our continued membership of the European Union – remember the European vision that he brought to Welsh politics.

"In this context, the time is ripe to re-assess his contribution and to see him as a mainstream European politician, way ahead of his time in Wales.

"It is also time to sweep away the character assassination deliberately waged against him both during his life and even after his death. He was a great man whom we should – as a nation and across political boundaries – be proud to salute."

Guests at the evening event, which was held at Evenlode Primary School, were welcomed by Mr Roper on behalf of Plaid Penarth.

The meeting was chaired by Dafydd Trystan Davies, the party's Assembly candidate for Cardiff South and Penarth, and a vote of thanks was given by Dafydd Williams, who chairs the Plaid Cymru History Society.

Mr Roper said later that Plaid Penarth, which organised the event with the party's history society, was extremely grateful to everyone who made the day such a success.

"I am particularly grateful to Granville John and his wife, Philippa, for their support and hospitality and to all the people who attended the unveiling and the evening meeting," he said.

"We are always happy to welcome new members and anyone interested can come and meet us at one of our monthly meetings, which are held at the Albion, Glebe Street, Penarth on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm."

ROWLAND DAVIES

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY MARKET EVENT

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2015

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have with the consent of the Welsh Ministers made an order under Sections 16A and 16(B)(6)(b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Sections 16A and 16(B)(6)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 4th December & Saturday 5th December 2015	**High Street Barry, between Island Road and East Street**	From 7.00pm Friday 4th December 2015 To 9.00pm Saturday 5th December 2015

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place via Queen Street, Island Road and Broad Street

Escorted access through the closure will be maintained for HGV's that are too large to make the turn from High Street into Island Road.

Dated this 26th day of November 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps Wenvoe CF5 6AA

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- **451 A level papers were sat**
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IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND
IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Take a good look around Bridgend
...if you want to make things a little easier over Christmas!

Williams and Evans are a established men's outfitters in the town centre.

by PHILIP IRWIN

BUSINESSES in the Bridgend area are getting ready to fight for their share of the Christmas market by offering a great product range, good service and excellent value – a package that definitely deserves to be given a closer look.

And in the town centre, this coming weekend would be a good time to start, as Santa is coming!

At 11am this Saturday, November 28, Santa and his reindeers arrive in Bridgend town centre before making their way to Santa's Grotto in Carnegie House on Wyndham Street.

Between 11:30am and 3pm, visitors will be able to see the reindeers as they rest on Wyndham Street, and then at 4pm Santa will be switching on the town's festive lights in Dunraven Place outside Barclays Bank.

You can also find him in his grotto at Carnegie House on Wyndham Street from 12pm to 4pm. He will then return between 10am and 4pm each Saturday up to and including 19 December.

A visit to the grotto costs £5 per child and includes an opportunity to take a photo plus a choice of gift. Bookings can be made at Carnegie House and all proceeds will be distributed to local charities by the Bridgend Lions Club.

Although the town has had a mixed press in recent months – the town council expressed concern about empty shops there are many positive signs too, with companies showing faith in its future by opening new ventures.

Modern new office buildings in the town attracted the Vale estate agents HRT to Bridgend, and a new tapas bar and photographic studio have opened recently.

There are also considerable signs of old buildings being renovated around the town, and those behind the investment, a mixture of private capital, EU money and Welsh Government funding, are confident that it will lead to a revived, vibrant town centre.

There has been much discussion recently about the Rhiw Centre, so The GEM spoke to one of the traders in the market there. Alastair Rosenberg runs **The Rug Stall** and he believes that the market is one of the town's strengths.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

Are you ready to party?

AS the party season approaches, it's time to think about the little black dress!

There is no better way to impress than by wearing a great fitting dress! At **Samantha B,** we have a wonderful selection from velvet, lace and sequins for the evening. Finish it off with a faux fur coat from Olsen or marble and you'll be the belle of the ball!

We also have some fantastic palazzo trousers in navy or black teamed with a twin set, a great alternative, yet still feminine!

To finish the outfit off, we have some beautiful jewellery and scarves that complete your look!

We also have a fantastic selection of co ordinated separates, from great labels such as Olsen, bianca, marble, Poppy and Emreco. For December, we will have a complementary wrapping service and sherry – so what are you waiting for? Call in and receive 20 per cent off this week!

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IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

SO MUCH ON OFFER…

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

He has certainly been there long enough to have a sense of perspective. He took The Rug Stall over 17 years ago, and it had been there under a previous owner for 20 or so years before that.

For a business to survive that long there must be a formula, and in Alastair's case it is simple – offer a massive range at keen prices.

He said: "We stock designs from traditional to super-modern, and have a wide range of catalogues if someone wants to order something special."

He and all the other traders in the Rhiw are owner-operators, and believe in the value of personal service.

The reason the Rhiw has been in the news, of course, is that the old multi-storey car park there has been demolished – to be replaced by a landmark £9m development featuring an all-new car park, 28 apartments and a commercial unit suitable for a shop, café or restaurant.

It has been a plank of council policy for a while now to get more people living in Bridgend town centre, and this development addresses that aim.

Funded by the Welsh Government, Coastal Housing Group and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the project forms part of the Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme which has secured £5.9m support from the Welsh Government.

The aim is to create a safer, more modern car park while creating a community of people living in the town centre who will use local shops, boost trade and help support the night-time economy.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31)

COMPANY'S ANSWER TO CHRISTMAS PROBLEM!

Why not take advantage of Dainton Self-Storage's free Christmas offer?

A BRIDGEND company is offering a free solution to an age-old Christmas problem.

Dainton Self Storage are aiming to bring festive cheer to Bridgend charities and families this Christmas by offering free storage space at their new, self-storage facility on Coity Road.

Dainton's manager, Jamie Richards, explained: "As the countdown to Christmas begins, many local charities collect presents, warm clothing and food supplies to distribute to those in need.

"Charities can find themselves under pressure to store the higher-than-normal amount of donations they receive during December before they are distributed.

"With this mind, Dainton Self Storage is offering to lend a helping hand, by providing a limited number of storage units free of charge."

The secure storage units will be available on a first come, first served, basis.

Jamie Richards continued: "Christmas can be a very exciting time for families; however, it can also be a very difficult time for those experiencing hardship.

"There are some wonderful, kind-hearted people in Bridgend who work tirelessly to help others and we wanted to lend them our support.

"If there is a charity or organisation that would like to take up our offer, please contact me on 01656 750293, or email *bridgend@dainton.com*"

Jamie went on to say that Dainton are also happy to help local parents hide presents from their curious children or prying partners by offering free 'Elf Storage' until Christmas Eve.

"We all remember as children the excitement of Christmas and the strong temptation to have a sneaky look for the presents our parents may have hidden around the house.

"With Elf Storage, your presents are safe from curious children and prying partners. We're offering this free service to help keep the magic of Christmas alive – and so that we stay on Santa's good list, of course!"

Presents can be dropped into the reception at Dainton Self Storage on Coity Road where they will be stored in a secure storage unit set aside for this purpose. Dainton will store the Christmas gifts ready for collection on or before December 24 – perfect for storing bikes or a collection of smaller presents!

Anyone who wants to take advantage of Dainton's service should call 01656 750293, email bridgend@dainton.com or visit the self-storage facility on Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1NS.

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Christmas in Bridgend...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

The car park will be ready for October 2016 while the apartments and commercial unit are set to be completed by the end of March 2017.

The 28 apartments will be classed as affordable housing, with separate parking, and will be aimed at people on modest incomes who either work in or near the town centre, or who commute.

As part of the VVP programme, more vacant space above existing town centre shops will be converted into affordable accommodation.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The new car park will offer 248 bays and 54 cycle spaces as well as customer lifts, dedicated disabled and family parking, a ground-level pedestrian crossing to give easy access to the nearby market and town centre shops, flexible parking payment options, and modern security measures including CCTV, improved lighting and new safety standards designed in partnership with South Wales Police."

Clearly, it's a positive development for the town, but retailers need support during the transitional period.

Edward Davies of **Williams and Evans** in Queen Street knows a thing or two about transitional periods. There has been a menswear shop in this premises for a staggering 115 years.

That covers some massive changes for this former market town, but he is confident that they can continue to prosper.

He said: "We have clothing ranges that people trust, such as the German brand of trousers, Meyer, and Camel Active jeans and jackets.

"We also stock Magee sports jackets and Hawick Knitwear – 100 per cent first cut lambswool."

He said that the parking situation had been eased by two new private car parks, one on Derwen Road and one opposite Wilkinson's, as well as the council-owned car parks at Brackla Street, Tremains Road, Tondu Road and Cheapside.

Another new business in the town, and a name that may well be recognised by GEM readers, is **Mandy Thomas Photography.** Mandy has supplied The GEM with photographs of many local events in recent years, from Remembrance Day to the Bridgend Youth Theatre, and from The Bryndethin Cat Centre events to features on local people.

Her new studio, in Dunraven Place, gives her a chance to develop her passion for portrait photography. For more information, go to *mandythomasphotography.com*

A fixture in the town centre for almost 50 years was **Riverside Hardware** which was, unsurprisingly, alongside the river in those days.

It is 12 years since the company moved to North Road on the Bridgend Industrial Estate, and it has been a story of continued expansion ever since.

Ryan Woodbridge, of Riverside, said: "We have been a family-run firm for more than 60 years now – something we are very proud of, and moving to our present premises has meant that we could increase our range of stock.

"We are the main dealers for Calor Gas in Bridgend and the Vale, with same day delivery, and we carry large stocks of Draper tools and Dickies work clothing."

Another company that has found the Bridgend Industrial Estate a good base to trade from is **Keltic Fires,** which opened in July.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

An artist's impression of how the new Rhiw car park and apartments will look.

The new arts centre in Bridgend, Carnegie House, will also be hosting Santa in his grotto!

In the Rhiw indoor market, The Rug Stall has been in business for around 40 years, and offers a very wide choice to customers.

Dogs Trust Bridgend
Christmas Fair
Action Pets Bridgend,
Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, CF32 9TZ
Sunday 29 November
11am - 3pm
Activities include:
Santa Paws in his Grotto with gifts for kids AND dogs!
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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

IN AND AROUND BRIDGEND IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

'Elfsteddfod' aiming for a festive record!

A recently developed area of the town that has attracted new businesses.

Part of the showroom at Keltic Fires.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

Matt Richards, of Keltic Fires, told The GEM: "We are delighted with the response we have had from customers in the Bridgend area.

"Business has been very good. We stock a full range of fires, and our best sellers are electric, multi-fuel and gas."

Of course, Christmas isn't all about shopping. It is a busy time for pubs and restaurants and at the Star Inn in Wick, Emily Francis is gearing up for another busy festive period.

Emily has been running the Star for three years now, and she enjoys the fact that it is a traditional pub with a real fire and real ales. In fact, it was recently highly commended by CAMRA in Bridgend and the Vale.

She runs a family-friendly pub, with dogs welcome, too, and the restaurant is open six days a week (including for Sunday lunch.

Emily added that there were still a few spaces left for parties to book for their Christmas meal. The Christmas menu, and the pub's other menus, can be seen on *www.thestarinnwick.co.uk*

Another company in the area that has a Christmas tradition is April Care Solutions.

From their base in Hendre Road, Pencoed, 25 staff look after around 50 service users.

Matthew Hughes, of April Care, said: "Every year we have an open day for service users, with a Christmas theme – and a visit from Santa.

"This year, it will be on December 9, from 11am – 5pm, and the Dogs Trust will be paying a visit, too, with a rescue dog or two."

Finally, don't forget that on Saturday, December 12, the annual 'Elfsteddfod' is being held in Bridgend town centre. Once again, Bridgend will be trying to set a world record for the largest ever gathering of elves!

Anyone taking part will be given free elf hats and the event will also include festive street entertainment, an elf treasure hunt, elf workshops, live music, face painting and more.

Come along to Adare Street from 11am on December 12 to help the town set that world record!

ABOVE: T & H Butchers are geared up to supply Christmas meats to their customers.

DOGS TRUST ADVICE

THE Dogs Trust in Court Colman, Pen y Fai, is holding a Christmas fayre this Sunday, November 29, at Action Petz in Bryncethin, from 11am-3pm.

The event aims to raise funds to support the work of the Dogs Trust, particularly in re-homing dogs.

Linda Feagan of the Dogs Trust told The GEM: "We will be open as usual over the Christmas period, so people can come along and look at the dogs, but we will not be re-homing any until the New Year.

"The reason for this is that we do not encourage anyone to get a dog 'on impulse'. People still do this, and it accounts for a significant number of the dogs that come to us in the months after Christmas.

"Also, it is difficult for a dog to settle in a home over the Christmas period, as so much is happening. Visitors will still be very welcome during this period."

Halo offers help to local sporting talent

THE organisation that runs leisure centres in Bridgend county is urging the borough's sporting talent to apply for assistance through the Halo Sports Foundation.

Halo Leisure runs the borough's leisure centres for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and its foundation (run in conjunction with the national GLL Sport Foundation and supported by Sport Wales) gives ambitious sportsmen, women and children in the area a helping hand.

The foundation offers thousands of pounds worth of funding and free training opportunities to local people (of all ages).

Simon Gwynne, the partnership manager, said: "As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity whose primary aim is to provide the local community with active leisure facilities, we are delighted to be able to offer support through the Sport Foundation for another year.

"We see it as an opportunity to put something back into the community that has supported us so well."

He continued: "Many of the county's most talented sports people struggle to meet the rising costs of competition."

The Halo Sports Foundation is currently supporting 114 local sports people (able bodied and disabled) across a variety of sports.

They use Halo's gyms, group exercise classes, pools, racket sports courts and indoor and outdoor sports pitches to keep fit and prepare for their next competitive event.

Local sporting stars have until February 20, 2016, to apply for a share of the Sport Foundation support. Applications open on December 20, 2015.

For more information, go to www.halosportfoundation.org.uk

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The Six Bells in Penmark hits right notes

Dining at The Six Bells, Penmark, is always a special experience.

THERE'S nothing like the traditional Welsh country pub at Christmas – and the Six Bells in Penmark hits all the right notes, with great food, a cosy atmosphere, entertainment, and a function room for special events.

Owners Mark and James are great hosts and have developed a reputation that draws people, not just from the Vale, but Cardiff and further afield.

Christmas Day is fully booked and all weekend party nights have sold out, but during the week, daytime and evenings are still available (*telephone 01446 710 229 for bookings*).

The Six Bells is an ideal, relaxing venue for office lunches, too and has ample car parking. If you would like a menu sent to your business, just email *mail@sixbellspenmark.co.uk*.

The Christmas prize draw will be held on December 18 with lots of prizes available – prize draw squares are just £1 each on sale behind the bar now.

For more information on The Six Bells, Penmark (CF62 3BP) go to www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk.

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Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

'Rhoose traders give everyone a warm welcome'

I HOPE people are looking forward to the pre-Christmas period in Rhoose, when they start to get that sense of urgency but also fun.

Make sure you order your turkey, buy your presents, get spruced up and be ready to have fun with Christmas parties and a very warm welcome from the traders of Rhoose!

There is a seasonal invitation to enjoy all our pubs and restaurants.

by Coun Jeff James

We must not forget the true meaning of Christmas and please see the list of church services:

December 13, Messy Christingle 4pm – 6pm, St Peter's.

December 20, Nativity service 9.45am, St Peter's.

December 20, Nine Lessons and Carols 6pm, St Peter's.

December 24, Crib Service 5pm, St Peter's.

December 24, midnight Eucharist 11.30pm, St Curig's, Porthkerry.

December 25 Christmas morning, Family Eucharist 10am, St Peter's.

A happy Christmas from Rhoose, and all it has to offer!

Warm welcome at Deano's Barber Shop

DEAN, CIARAN AND BIBI.

DEANO'S BARBER SHOP was established in Rhoose village in 1999. Dean Chamberlain is the grandson of Michael Olympios, owner of Michael's Hairdressing Salon/Barbershop from Cardiff Docks and Clifton Street between 1956-1990.

Deano's is a traditional barber shop running a walk-in service, open six days a week, offering reduced rates for children and senior citizens.

Dean also stocks a large variety of e-cig liquids and hardware.

Deano's is at 7 Fontygary Road, CF62 3DR; 01446 710434; follow on Facebook, too!

DEANO'S BARBER SHOP
A Merry Christmas & a big thank you to all clients
Join us for a complimentary festive drink and mince pie throughout December!
Open
Mon 8.30am-4pm. Tues 7.30am-4.30pm.
Wed, Thurs & Fri 7.30am-7pm.
Sat 7am-4pm.
OAP rates available
Stockists of a large variety of E-Cig liquids and hardware
7 Fontygary Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DR
Tel: 01446 710434

PASSPORT TO PLAY LTD
Rhoose Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EQ
QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 WEEKS – 7
School transfer facility available to local school.
Out of school club available for children aged up to 11 years - Monday - Friday.
Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6.00pm.
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www.stairliftsolutionswales.com

Birthday celebration following...

Amazing year for Salon 100!

ABOVE: Cutting Salon 100's first birthday cake.

CELEBRATING their first year in business, Annette and her team at Salon 100 have had an amazing year.

They marked the event with a drinks reception, and the feedback from clients is how pleased they are with the professional and friendly way that the salon is run.

Annette explained: "They love the fact that investment has been made in to the team by way of training, also the introduction of leading products, such as Kerastraight and Olaplex.

"We are now attracting clients from as far away as London.

"The team recently attended Salon International at London's Excel, because I'm keen to keep ahead of the game and ensure that we are always able to offer the most up to date techniques.

"Olaplex has been a real game changer – a firm favourite of celebrities. This ground-breaking technique works from the inside out, to strengthen, condition and literally reconnect the hair strand structure where broken.

"It's amazingly simple and it's how Kim Kardashian's hair wasn't totally ruined by 'platinumgate'."

The team at Salon 100 are truly passionate about keeping their clients' hair in 'tip-top' condition, and you can always rely on the best possible advice, both during your consultation at the salon, and aftercare advice.

They offer a number of retail products to suit individual needs and are now stocking Neal & Wolf, a luxury brand that is sulphate free, sodium chloride free, paraben free, dea and tea free and cruelty free.

They won't dry out the hair or damage it - they simply let the hair flow naturally. None of the products is tested on animals, so they're also cruelty free, and because UV protection is contained throughout the entire range, they even shield the hair from environmental damage.

If you've not visited the salon before, pop in; you will love its friendliness and warmth.

Salon100 Hair & Beauty
LADIES & GENTS HAIRDRESSING
Stockists of quality products:
MATRIX CND KERASTRAIGHT OLAPLEX
Beautician offering
Waxing, Lashes & Brows, Facials, Tanning & Nails.
New products available
Dreamweave Mascara & Beautiful Brows.
All the girls at Salon 100 would like to wish all their clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Open Tues-Sat from 9am.
100 Fontygary Road, Rhoose CF62 3DU
01446 711598
facebook.com/salon100rhoose

RHOOSE GETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS

See more Rhoose businesses on page 36.

'Ewe'nique' sales and letting agent EweMove expands its flock!

SALES and letting agent EweMove is welcoming a new member to its flock, as Jenny Solman joins the team in Rhoose.

Jenny, who has been selling houses in the area for many years, commented: "I am delighted to be bringing the unique and award-winning EweMove brand to Rhoose.

"I am confident that our innovative approach to estate agency, combined with our 24/7 service and passion for baa-rilliant customer experience, will be hugely beneficial to everyone looking to buy, sell or let locally!

"The key to our success is our quirky brand and our extensive marketing. We make sure that our customers' properties really do stand out from the crowd, giving them the attention they deserve.

This includes providing amazing photographs, 2D and 3D colour floor plans, as well as carefully-crafted marketing descriptions," she said.

According to Jenny, 95 per cent of buyers now search online for property, which is why EweMove lists properties on all of the major property portals to generate exposure and enquiries.

"This, combined with EweMove's 'Mammoth Marketing' approach means that our sellers' and landlords' homes get more interest, more quickly. We also operate a 24/7 service to ensure that any viewing, enquiry, purchase offer or application is never lost."

EweMove's award winning 'Ewereka!' system enables prospective buyers and tenants to book their own appraisal and viewing appointments online, without needing to call an agent or make time to visit an office. They can also apply or make an offer for a property by phone, or online 24 hours a day from the comfort of their own home.

EweMove pride themselves on a unique customer service, with a motto of: 'We'll Never Fleece Ewe.' Customers are not required to pay upfront fees or hidden charges.

This service-focused estate agent is rated '5 Star' and 'Excellent' by their customers on the independent review platform Trustpilot.

For anyone wondering what their home is worth, or what the rental value of a property in Rhoose is, the EweMove website features a free online valuation tool that provides an instant valuation report.

For further information, contact 01446 349101 or visit Ewemove.com/Rhoose where the free, instant valuation tool can be accessed.

EweMove.com
Sales and Lettings
Contact us for a FREE, no obligation property appraisal.
01446 349101
jenny.solman@ewemove.com

Lovely lattes, hot roast turkey baguettes... It's Coffee Time – and the chance to spoil yourself!

Coffee Time in the centre of Rhoose is a family-run business and Glenys Watson is always keen to delight customers with festive specialities – how about Christmas spiced latte? Or gingerbread latte? Then there's toffee apple cake! And, of course, it wouldn't be Christmas in Rhoose without Glenys's hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry baguette.

Coffee Time
Open Breakfast Time to Tea Time
Christmas Baguettes - Turkey with Stuffing and Cranberry now available
Christmas Spiced Coffees
Full Lunchtime Menu available
Full Breakfast Menu available all day from 9am
Hygiene Rating 5
Buffets Available
We cater for all events
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 4.30pm
21 Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711600
A Merry Christmas to all our customers

There's lots planned for Christmas at The Fontygary Inn.

Fontygary Inn offers festivities ...and fun

KEVIN, Kerry and Peter are celebrating their ninth Christmas at the Fontygary Inn.

Kevin said: "We've got a fantastic menu available at just three courses and this year children have their own menu of £6.95.

"It's perfect for celebrating with friends and family or partying with colleagues.

"There is limited availability so book soon to avoid disappointment.

Kerry pointed out there will be the popular festive evenings too.

"The now traditional Race Night is being run again on Boxing Day from 7.30pm

"New Year tickets are selling fast and include a disco until the early hours and a buffet.

"All our usual offers are still running during the festive season including the lunch-time specials, sizzler and curry evenings.

The FONTYGARY INN
Celebrate Christmas & New Year with family & friends at the Fontygary Inn
FESTIVE MENU
now being served.
PARTY BOOKINGS
being taken. (Limited availability)
NEW YEARS TICKETS
on sale at £7.50 to include disco & buffet.
Don't miss the traditional
BOXING DAY RACE NIGHT
from 7.30pm
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
(Drinks only) 11am-2pm.
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
every Friday & Saturday.
Open every day for food from 12 noon.
Breakfast served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12pm.
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
served 12-5pm.
SPECIAL LUNCH TIME MENU
available Monday to Saturday 12-3pm
just £9.95 for 3 courses.
Sky Sport & BT Sport showing all live matches
Check out our website for details of menus & entertainment.
Fonmon Road, Rhoose
Tel. 01446 711221 www.fontygaryinn.com

APPOINTMENTS STILL AVAILABLE AT BARBUZZ

BARBUZZ Hair & Beauty Salon, based in Fontygary Leisure Park, in Rhoose is a popular salon dealing in hairdressing and beauty.

There are still appointments available in the run up to the Christmas period. Either pop in, or phone 01446 710608.

Lisa and the staff would like to wish all their customers a wonderful Christmas.

Barbuzz
Hair Design@the Bay
— HAIR & BEAUTY SALON —
ALL ASPECTS OF HAIRDRESSING - VERY REASONABLE PRICES.
Open to our local community and visitors.
Beauty room for manicures, waxing etc.
A Merry Christmas to all our clients.
Bookings now being taken.
Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose
01446 710608

Sublime Beauty says: 'Book your Christmas appointments now!'

SUBLIME BEAUTY is a classic independent business – local staff providing a friendly, professional service to local people with clients coming from the village and surrounding area.

The salon is ultra-modern, light and spacious, offering stylish haircuts, colourings and beauty treatments.

Local ladies are advised to get their Christmas appointment in early by calling 01446 711799, to ensure they don't miss out on that pre-festive beauty treatment or cut.

Sublime Hair also has its own beauty therapist carrying out treatments for nails, lashes, waxing and even mini-facials.

Vanessa, the owner, said: "We want to thank all our clients for their continued suport and wish them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

Sublime Hair
4 Stewart Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
to all our clients from Vanessa, Tyler, Katie & Naomi.
SPECIALISING IN COLOURING TECHNIQUES.
We use Affinage Kitoko ASP salon professional products.
'HAIR UP'
for parties & special occasions
THE BEAUTY BOX at Sublime Hair
Beauty & Holistic Treatments with Naomi
Manicures, Pedicures, Nails, Facials, Waxing & Massage, Minxnails & Opi Gel colour
Open Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm
Friday 9am - 7pm, Saturday 8.30am - 3pm
Tel. 01446 711799

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

The Highwayman Inn is set for a Merry Christmas

The Highwayman Inn has a first class menu and lots of entertainment over the Christmas period.

THE HIGHWAYMAN is a very popular venue with its excellent food and evenings of entertainment.

Wayne Morgan, the chef and co-owner with Derek Gaynor, told The GEM: "Our Christmas parties are filling up quickly – in fact Christmas Day was booked up as early as September1"

Other nights over the festive period are available, but it is advisable to book up in advance. A lot of people enjoy popping in for a drink and enjoying the entertaiment.

Wayne explained that people will notice some recent improvements.

"We've also done interior refurbishment recently and new cladding on the outside of the building."

Many people arrive at Christmas Eve and don't want to have to cook prior to the big day; if so, why not book in for a meal at The Highwayman? There are still spots available.

Wayne, Derek and all the staff would like to wish all their customers a 'Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year'!

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS
Available Monday-Saturday
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS INCLUDE ENTERTAINMENT.
3 COURSE MENU ONLY £24.95
Saturday 5th December
JIMMY GEE Great Male Attraction
Friday 11th December
RICHARD MORGAN Vocal Instrumentalist
Saturday 12th December
MARC SIMON First Class Vocalist
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Normal Menu available for diners until 9pm.
From 9pm onwards only £3 a ticket
includes disco & karaoke plus nibbles until late
Open every day 9am 'til late; Open Christmas Day 'til 3pm;
Closed Christmas Day Night; Open Boxing Day
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers. We look forward to seeing you during the festive season.

Minibus service available for diners - phone for details
Free to Rhoose, Penmark and Aberthaw
Nurston, Nr. Rhoose
Tel. 01446 710205
www.highwayman-pub.com

MOUNTING TOLL OF SHIPS OFF OUR 'STERN AND INHOSPITABLE COAST'...

BY BRIAN KEITCH

WITH all the storms we have had of late, let's cast our minds back 150 years to when a 'visit' to the Vale sea shore was far from a pleasure.

For unfortunate souls it was their last visit to the beach. According to, among others, Lloyd's Index of Shipwrecks, at least 20 vessels came to grief here in the 10 years 1860 to 1870 – and quite possibly more. Records show that at least 60 souls were lost, but many more were never accounted for.

Recalling a trip by steam packet, Charles Cliffe in his *Book of South Wales* of 1848 states: '*Shoreward, the objects passed are Sully and Barry Island, and the small port of Aberthaw, the headland beyond which is graphically called Breaksea Point.*

'*The coast from hence to Nash Point is stern and inhospitable until the beautiful wooded dingle of St Donat's, with its castle and watch-tower, opens with an effect like an oasis in a stony desert.*'

Despite the provision of two lighthouses by the Brethren of Trinity House on Nash Point following the dreadful *Frolic* disaster of March 17, 1831 – in which some 78 passengers and crew lost their lives (no survivors to tell the tale) the Nash Sands still claimed at least five vessels over the period mentioned above.

They were practically all sailing ships of various descriptions. With the advent of steam power in the 1820s and a spate of early packets coming to grief along the coasts of Ireland and south Wales, by the 1860s the steam ships seemed to have overcome those early problems.

With power, manoeuvrability and speed they could cope quite well, even in pretty extreme conditions. Not so the many sailing vessels that went from one small port to another, or even further afield across the ocean.

A change of wind direction, tidal sets and sometimes just bad seamanship made travel by sail still precarious. Many of the victims were filling the graveyards of the churches in the Vale.

On November 14, 1860, Porthkerry beach claimed the sloop *Reserve* carrying stone: all three crew were lost. There was a south-westerly force 7 gale in progress.

Nash Point comes into focus on July 28, 1861 when the barque *Mary And Deffus* (built in 1855 at Prince Edward Island) foundered there after a 'collision'. The ship was carrying coal under the control of Captain Groves. Although classed as A1 at Lloyd's, only three of the crew of nine survived.

Later the *Stag* – schooner, under the ownership of Rusden, Gosling & Co, was lost off Penarth. No further details are available.

On the first of September 1861, the *Villiers* got into trouble on the Mixon Bank. A bit out of our remit here – but the tale of one of the crew is worth a mention: '*A young lad by the name of Peachy, one of the survivors of the Villiers, made local headlines by surviving three shipwrecks in six months.*

'*In early 1861, he was aboard the barque Orissa when it sank off Cape St Verde on March 20. With other survivors he landed at Liverpool and joined the Villiers. Landed at Swansea after the loss of the Villiers, he signed aboard the Fanny, which was completely destroyed by fire at sea on October 22'!*

One wonders if he was welcome on board another ship to continue his seafaring career!

Breaksea Point, Aberthaw, was the final resting place of the *Sarah*. A smack carrying coal was a victim of a south-westerly force 6 gale; so was one of the crew on April 2, 1862.

The following November a far worse loss was recorded at – yet again – Nash Sands. With a cargo of citrus fruits and leather, believed to be from Spain, the brig *Gillies* was victim to a WSW gale force 9 with all the crew of 12 lost.

On January 19 the following year, it was the *Mary Jenkins* whose turn it was to perish on the Nash. Carrying wheat, this schooner went down with all hands in a gale force 10. No names recorded.

Also, in January that year, the Russian barque *Heinrich Sorenson*, which was bound from Cardiff to Bordeaux in ballast, was driven ashore in a storm onto Breaksea Point, Aberthaw.

With the ship's boat lost the crew of 12 tried to swim ashore. Help, however, was at hand because William John of Limpert Farm and three other local men went into the water to rescue the crew.

Mr William John had plenty of experience in rescues along this dangerous stretch of coast and on this occasion was awarded the RNLI silver medal for bravery.

The *Magnet*, built as a smack and converted into a schooner, was carrying copper ore from Padstow to Swansea when she foundered at Porthcawl on October 29, 1865.

Barely a month later on November 25, the *Elphis*, under the command of Captain Blackburn, was carrying coal. Although classed as A1 at Lloyd's, she was no match for the dreaded Nash Point – coming ashore in Cwm Nash.

Although ashore on the beach, the south-by-east force 10 gale ensured that only two of the crew of 11 lived to tell the tale. A couple of months later, on January 5, 1866, the *Bonanza,* carrying coal from Newport to the Cape of Good Hope, was caught in a WSW force 9 gale, driven on the beach at Barry Island (then still very much an island) and stranded. Only three of the 12 crew survived.

In March the same year, the schooner *Mounts Bay*, registered in Truro, was lost at Aberthaw; nothing else is known. At about the same time and same place (March 6, 1866 to be exact), the barque *Emil* bound for Cardiff from Bremen in ballast foundered on the Breaksea in a storm force 11.

Of the crew of 11, three were lost. Amazingly on the 28th of the same month, the same part of the coast claimed yet another victim – this time the schooner *Charm* which hailed from Penzance.

Captain Young was the master but again, no record of the victims at Aberthaw.

Further up the coast at Port Talbot, the *Venus* went down with copper ore in 1867. We then have a succession of boats 'stranded and lost' for which information is minimal. On February 5, 1868 the *Sampson* was lost on Sully Island in ballast against a south force 6. Of the crew of five, four got to safety.

On September 25 the same year, *Eliza* from Penzance was lost on Barry beach. In March the following year the *Wabash* with a cargo of cast iron ingots and pigs was lost with all hands on the West Scar Sands. Meanwhile on October 10, 1869 the *Golden Fleece*, on its way from Cardiff to Alexandria, came to grief on Lavernock Point.

This time we have a fuller account: '*Foundered in wind conditions WNW force 5. The Master was acquitted of blame, the court being of the opinion that the loss of the vessel was probably caused by one of the coal ports in the bunker becoming adrift.*

'*Having left Cardiff on the day she was lost carrying 2,445 tons of cargo, with the wind fresh from the SW the Master deemed it prudent to anchor in the Roads whilst the crew were employed in putting the ship in order for her voyage.*

'*Her boilers were banked up, maintaining a full head of steam and the pumps at 8pm indicated the ship was perfectly tight and dry. At 9.30pm the second engineer reported water coming out of the starboard bunker into the boiler room, and that she was filling fast. Her cables were slipped and within minutes her engine was going ahead, the Master heading for the shore to run her aground.*

'*The boats were got ready, all hands called on deck and distress signals fired. The steamer then suddenly 'heeled' over to starboard and appeared to settle, so her engines were stopped and with the exception of cook's assistant, who was missing, the crew left the vessel in their own boat.*

'*She sank bow first at 10pm, one man going down with the ship.*'

But Nash Point was again the last resting place of a ship – this time the *Amelie* on April 17, 1870. On a voyage from Cardiff to Lucon with a cargo of coal and other unspecified goods she was stranded and lost. Only one crew member survived.

In November of the same year the schooner *Emily Agnes* on her voyage from Bristol to Dublin with a cargo of stone under command of Captain Watkins was lost off Penarth in a SW force 6 to force 9. Three of the crew were drowned.

Finally, the last word goes to the Nash Sands (again). This time the casualty was the *New Dominion* sailing from Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island to Cardiff with a cargo of oats, under the command of Captain Lawrence Kirkham and classed as A1 with Lloyd's.

She sailed from Prince Edward Island on December 18, 1870 and made Lundy Island light by January 2. The following day the weather became very thick but when Morte Head was sighted dead ahead at noon, one mile off, the ship was tacked to the NE, the wind at the time being ESE.

At 2.30pm land was again seen dead ahead one mile distant, and the ship was tacked to the southward, the lead and line indicating she had 10.5 fathoms of water beneath the keel. Two further casts of the lead gave 13 fathoms when suddenly she struck, bumped heavily, and sea commenced to make a clean breach over her.

So great was the force of the waves, that she quickly broke into two amidships and her crew were compelled to take to the boats.

At the Court of Inquiry held at Liverpool, it was considered that the Master had failed to use the lead sufficiently when standing towards the dangerous sands on the Welsh coast.

He also neglected to make any due allowance for the set and strength of the tide, whereby he became confined inside the Nash Sands.

The court found the Master in default, and ordered his certificate suspended for three months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bach Choir to perform

CARDIFF Bach Choir will perform the Magnificats by John Rutter and JS Bach on Saturday, November 28 at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Penarth. This will be the choir's first concert under the direction of their new conductor, Luke Spencer. Tickets £12, available on the door.

First aid and festivities

BARRY Milk Mates will hold their Nearly New and Christmas craft sale this Saturday, November 28, at Barry Comprehensive School, from 2pm – 4pm. A host of stalls will be there, including Polly's Patch, Forever Living and the baby sling swing library of Bridgend.

St John's Ambulance will offer paediatric first aid displays, just in time for the hazards of Christmas! So come in out of the cold, grab a Starbucks coffee and a mince pie, have your face painted and browse for your Christmas bargains, or visit Santa in his grotto. All profit made goes toward provision of the Barry Milk Mates service to all the Vale's breastfeeding mums and their children.

News from St Cyres Comprehensive

Charity cake sale

Congratulations to year-13 student, Natalie Emms, who organised a school cake sale to raise funds for a breast cancer charity.

After gift aid, Natalie and her fellow students raised £483.21. Special thanks to Mrs Walker and Bev for making the cakes.

LHC Senedd visit

MR ODLUM recently took a group of budding scientists from the St Cyres sixth form to the Senedd to see a life size replica of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) tunnel.

The science and technology facilities council exhibition allowed students to experience first-hand the sense of being inside one of the most famous places in science, and to have the opportunity to speak directly to the scientists involved with the world's largest scientific experiment.

The students enjoyed the visit immensely. They had a quiz where they looked around the exhibits learning about particle physics and the particle accelerator itself, then a few short talks on how it works, what it is made of and safety inside the tunnel.

Tourism trip

YEAR-10 tourism students have recently returned from a very successful and informative fieldtrip to Cardiff Bay.

Students carried out a range of tasks, including a mystery shopper activity in the Wales Millennium Centre and completed questionnaires designed by themselves earlier in the week by speaking to members of the public.

A tour of both the WMC and Techniquest showed students the ideas behind the customer service training these excellent centres have to offer.

The impeccable attitude and behaviour of the pupils was commended by staff at the two centres.

Battlefields lesson

A GROUP of 47 pupils and teachers recently made the long journey to Belgium to improve their knowledge and understanding of the First World War, to aid the pupils in their GCSE history controlled assessments.

They visited many cemeteries and memorials to give them an idea of just how many soldiers fought and died for King and country.

They also participated in a project to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One which will be unveiled in 2018. In addition to this, they were also able to visit the Flanders Field Museum which taught them how the people of Ypres rebuilt their lives and homes after the catastrophes of World War One.

Furthermore, they were given the opportunity to visit the famous Menin Gate and witness the emotional event of the Last Post ceremony.

Overall, the trip was eye opening and moving and allowed the pupils to get more of an insight into the effects World War One had on both soldiers and those on the Homefront.

by Hannah Lewis and Kate Brown (year-10)

World War One app launch

THE National Library of Wales launched the Wales at War Project at St Cyres School, Penarth earlier this month.

Year-10 history students at St Cyres school were thrilled to be involved in the launch of such a major new digital resource. Students used the Wales at War programme to research and input information about men and women who died in the First World War.

Several students were able to add their own relatives to the Wales at War site. Huw Lewis, the Education Minister, spoke to students about their research during the afternoon.

Cinderella

ST CYRES School's annual production will be Ben Croker's *Cinderella*: instead of performing a classic west end production, the school has opted to perform its first pantomime since moving to the new school building, with its amazing auditorium.

Staff and students have worked extremely hard to produce, direct, publicise and market the production in such a short space of time. A lot of responsibility is shared amongst several students, who work closely alongside members of staff as part of their Performing Arts and Musical Technology courses.

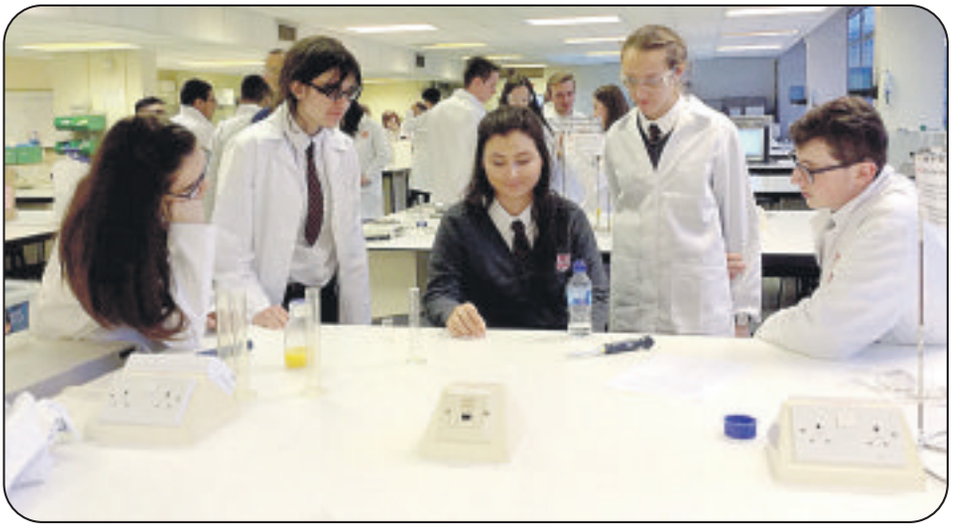
Cinderella, (played by Sydney Richards) struggles in her day-to-day life to satisfy the high expectations of her wicked step mother (Lauren Jagger) and step sisters (Phoebe Stacy and Jade Guy).

Cinderella's fortunes change, however, when she meets her fairy godmother (Rebekah West). Prince Charming (Lewis Gardner) is struggling to find the love of his life and disguises himself as his man servant Dandini (Ellis Hopkins) in order to discover how he is really perceived by his public.

Along the way, there are many entertaining moments, whether it is with Buttons (Davey Sheppard) or the comedy double act of Snitch and Snatch (Harri Herniman and Daniel Blackmore).

Throughout the performance, audience participation is required and encouraged by the cast who are extremely excited to see large crowds of adults, teenagers and children be entertained through acting, singing and dancing.

This performance promises to entertain and wow its audiences with magical effects, entertaining musical numbers and outstanding individual performances. Tickets are now on sale at St Cyres School. Performance dates are December 2, 3 and 4 at 7pm.



Chemistry trip

A GROUP of year-12 biology and chemistry students from St Cyres recently attended a series of lectures and workshops at the University of Cardiff.

The students gained hands-on experience in activities involving the search for novel antibiotics, finding out how biochemical pathways are used by organisms to produce molecules, and how these can be disrupted using drugs. They also discovered how chemical reactions can be used to assay biological molecules to allow doctors to diagnose diseases like cancer.

The course was jointly organised by the departments of biosciences and chemistry, and inspired the students to consider using what they have learnt in their A Level classes to develop drugs or processes that could be used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Barrivale bridge news round-up

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 17.

This was the first week of the Barrivale Team Championship with the concluding week to be held on November 24 - 1st Jane Brook, Denis Mottram, Celia Thomas & Huw Thomas 58 IMPS; 2nd Kay Dyer, Noelle Bond, Peter Millar & Mick Green 49 IMPS; 3rd Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Close & Mike Best 48 IMPS.

The winners of the men's pairs event, run earlier this year, are Peter Millar and Mike Close (pictured).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Barry and District men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers.(C.Tipton 27) 278, Colcot Boys (K.Thomas, B.Sulivan 29) 283; Barry Park'B' (P.Clarke 30) 289, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes 32) 285; Bunker Boys (L.Evans 29) 270, Sea View (J.Stokes 31) 285; Geest (S.Galsworthy 29) 286, Cavaliers (A.Rowles 33) 274; Mighty Dockers (I.Millar 29) 296, The Hairy Lemons (J.Bowman 29) 264; Sea View(D.Britton 29) 298, Ex-Servicemen (H.Hellyar 34) 306.

DIVISION 2:

Buffs Exiles (B.Potter 28) 260, Witchill Poachers (S.Rogers 28) 254; Cannon Balls (D.Pike 30) 302, Exiles (J.Miles 30) 275; 'H' Hells (B.Crockford 29) 286, Willie Wombles (P.Taylor 33) 284; Pasrk Lads (K.Jones, G.Jones, D.Lambert 24) 258, The Royalists (G.Davies 28) 250; Park Rangers (R.Webb 26) 238, Posties (M.Churchill 27) 243.

DIVISION 3:

British Rail (D.Slugg 32) 286, West End Fliers (M.James 28) 248; Castle Boys (G.Brooks 30) 271, Billy Whizz (S.Webbley 28) 259; C.U.D.(B.Rees 24) 261, Billy Bluebirds (A.James 273; The Alternatives (S.Davies 30) 257, Glenbrook Rangers (K.Samson 27) 265; West End Fliers (B.Morgan 28) 272, KP Monkeynuts (J.Bennett, M.Alaoui 24) 215.

HR

Three HORSESHOES Country Inn

Join us in our **newly decorated, festive, rural,** country pub.
Enjoy **cosy log fires** and **real ales.**

LUNCHTIME OFFER

Served Monday - Saturday 12-4pm

Our own Steak Pie
Wholetail Scampi
Chicken Curry Rice & Chips
Baked Yorkshire Ham
Roast of the Day
Deep Fried Brie
Beer battered Fish & Chips
Dish of the day - 6oz hand cut Rump Steak

All served with vegetables or salad & chips or boiled potatoes

£6.95

includes unlimited tea or coffee.
Add a dessert for £2.00.

FESTIVE LUNCH MENU

Served Monday - Friday

STARTER
Soup of the day
Garlic mushrooms
MAIN
Roast Glamorgan Turkey
Pan Fried Hake
Vegetarian Option
Chunky Steak Pie

All served with seasonal vegetables. Mince pie & coffee.

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Christmas Lights Switch-On in Penarth

PENARTH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

MAY I take this opportunity to remind your readers that Penarth's Christmas tree festival takes place at St Augustine's Church on the weekend of December 5-6.

The festival will be open between 11am and 5pm on Saturday, December 5 and 12 noon to 5pm on Sunday, December 6.

The admission charge is £3 for adults, £2.50 for concessions and children are free. All of the proceeds are donated to charity. This year, the charities being supported by the festival are 2Wish Upon A Star, the Anita Goulden Trust, and Thrive, Cardiff.

ANDREW DAVISON,
Chairman, Penarth Christmas Tree Festival.

Lighting up Penarth

AS joint winner of the best-dressed Christmas window in Penarth last year, Cathy Evans, owner of Bojangles gift shop and Ginger's Fashions, will be switching on the Christmas lights in Penarth town centre on Sunday, November 29.

As well as lighting up the town, there will be plenty of entertainment throughout the day and many of the shops will be open, with special offers to encourage local Christmas shopping.

Ginger's of Penarth will be offering 25 per cent off all fashions for that day. Bojangles will be giving shoppers an opportunity to get their Christmas gifts and presents in their fabulous Christmas Shop, and will be opening on Sundays throughout December to give shoppers an extra couple of shopping days.

Cathy said: "I am delighted to support Penarth and as a local independent business owner, it is so important to encourage people to shop locally and to support small businesses. We hope everyone will visit Penarth on November 29 and join in with the festivities.

"I am especially looking forward to switching on the town lights and was so proud of Bojangles' window last year, as it was our first year of trading."

Sparkling gold opening to a magical season!

ESTABLISHED in 2003, with branches in Penarth and Radyr, ener-chi pride themselves on creating wonderful handmade window displays: "Plenty of cutting sticking and glitter," said Judy Mancuso, owner ener-chi organics ltd.

"I am delighted to be switching on the Christmas lights in Penarth town to commemorate ener-chi's joint festive window display win in 2014.

"We are extremely proud, and decorations are well under way for this unveiling; this year's theme is sparkling gold, with a freshly-painted gold shop front to complement the approaching magical season."

Visit ener-chi for stress free shopping this Christmas with friendly advisors on hand to help you choose, stocking fillers from £2, to indulgent beauty hampers brimming with designer brands such as Espa, Dr Hauschka and L'Occitane; or float into a relaxing massage or beauty treatment while your chosen gifts are expertly wrapped.

Take advantage of ener-chi's free seasonal gift wrapping service; if spoilt for choice, ener-chi gift vouchers make the perfect gift.

Ginger's of Penarth
We are Lighting Up Penarth!
25% off
All Fashions for one day only
on Sunday 29th November between 10am-4pm
Ginger's of Penarth, 9-11 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth CF64 2AD. Tel 02920709773

caudalie divine body oil £8
Marvelous Mum
Gifts Galore
£30
l'occitane shea butter gift set
sparkling Christmas gift shop
Deserving Dad
Tempting Treats
From £12.50
Gift vouchers available
espa gift collection
Christmas
Late night shopping evening, Penarth
17th December 5pm-8pm
ener-chi
www.ener-chi.co.uk
Penarth - 02920 707356
Radyr - 02920 214012

What's on, and where?

Concert for Ty Hafan

THIS Saturday, November 28, Cowbridge and Pontypridd Choral Societies will be singing Handel's *Messiah* at 7pm in Llantrisant Leisure Centre to support of Ty Hafan.

The soloists will be Iona Jones (soprano), Kate Woolveridge (mezzo soprano), Ben Smith (tenor) and Gareth Rhys Davies (baritone) and the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Geoff Ryan.

Tickets are available from WG Davies, 38 High Street, Cowbridge, the leisure centre, any choral society members, or on the door.

New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Tea in Barry

THE sales team at the Morrisons store on Heol Ceiniog in Barry invite local pensioners to join them for a mince pie and tea or coffee next week.

Between 2.30pm and 5pm on Tuesday, December 1, local pensioners are invited to stop by the store's café where free refreshments will be served.

Andrew Stevens, the store's general manager said: "We're very grateful to our loyal customers and this is just a small token of our appreciation ahead of Christmas."

Cylch Meithrin fair

THERE will be a winter fair as a fundraiser for Cylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr, and it will take place on December 5 at the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major between 11am and 1pm.

Various stalls, children's crafts, refreshments and Sarah Rosser photography will be there. To book a stall call Debra on 07912 575070.

Barry Mayor's Christmas crafts

THE MAYOR of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will hold a Christmas craft fair on Wednesday, December 16, between 10am and 2pm at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN. There will be various sales stalls, plus tea, coffee and cakes – come along and purchase those last minute Christmas gifts!

For more information call 01446 704921 or e-mail *juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk*

Proceeds of the fair go to the charities the Mayor has chosen to support during her term of office, which are Tŷ Hapus and MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

National Trust in the Vale

THE Vale of Glamorgan National Trust Association of Volunteers are holding their Christmas lunch on Wednesday, December 16 at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Anyone interested in attending should e-mail Andrew Maclehose before November 30 on *andrewmaclehose@hotmail.com*

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Financial sector was not the sole cause of world economic crash'

– says reader

I MUST confess that I have little time for the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM and that said, his diatribe in last week's GEM plumbed new depths.

At best, he was being disingenuous in all of his claims. Let's look at each one in turn.

Mr Jones claims that the Chancellor is proposing to "do away with tax credits", but he should know better. The proposal is to change the level of tax credits.

He then tells us that families will be at risk of losing an average of £1,300, yet the Institute of Fiscal Studies put the figure at £459.

Who is right? The First Minister tells us that some will be £3,000 worse off, representing a cut of 10 per cent in income to our lowest paid.

The reduction of £3,000 presumably relates to someone earning £30k pa, which is £5,000 more than the average wage in Wales. Lowest paid!

Of course, the changes will impact upon people and that should not be underestimated, but we deserve better than dodgy statistics.

The First Minister then tells us that it was the financial sector that "crashed the world economy".

That sector certainly played a role – but in truth, the issues were far broader than reckless lending – or should that be reckless borrowing? Was anyone forced to borrow?

In the UK, Gordon Brown steadfastly refused to regulate the financial sector. In reality, levels of Government borrowing in say, Spain, Greece and yes, the UK, had become unsustainable, added to which economies around the world were grinding to a halt, all of which contributed to the worldwide recession.

Mr Jones then tells us that businesses cannot afford to pay the living wage. Which businesses? Perhaps those in the financial sector or the major retailers, or maybe those that avoid paying Corporation Tax.

If he is really concerned about local businesses, perhaps he could take action on business rates.

Having shed crocodile tears and forgetting to mention the recent 11 per cent pay rise for AMs, he shares his concern that those who lose tax credits will have less to spend.

True, so what about taking some positive action, such as freezing council tax, as they have in England and Scotland?

John A Turner,
Rhoose.

'Paris atrocity a rare event'

THE mass hysteria being whipped up in favour of committing British forces to bombing Isis and civilians in Syria is out of all proportion to the threat we face.

Intelligent voices are asking the question, exactly what do we expect to achieve?

In the last 14 years, we have spent billions, killed many thousands and suffered the loss of life of our own troops and it made absolutely no difference.

We need to accept that Britain is no longer a main military player and should only involve itself when absolutely necessary. What have the carpet bombing and invasions of the last 14 years achieved, other than increasing the conflict?

We seem to want a knee-jerk reaction to the terrible loss of 130 innocent citizens in Paris, yet these atrocities are a rare event in Europe. We have previously totally ignored massive loss of innocent life elsewhere and not seen a need to act provocatively.

Please learn the lessons of the past and think very carefully. It is easy to commit others to do our dirty work, are we individually so threatened? Do we really understand the complexities of the Middle East, or the motives of ISIS, who until recently were our allies!

Politicians need to think less about their popularity and more about a long term plan for peace. They have failed us for too many years in these conflicts.

Remember the Paris and London bombings were undertaken by our own citizens, not trained Middle East terrorists.

Steve Reed,
Rhoose.

Somerset Road, Barry
3 Double Bedrooms; 2 Receptions
Large Kitchen/Dining Room
Sea Views; Basement; Period Features
£229,995 D62

Cudd Y Coed, Barry
4 Bedrooms; Conservatory
Refitted Kitchen/Family Room
Larger Than Average Rear Garden
£259,950 D64

St. Brannocks Close, Barry
4 Bedrooms; 3 Reception Areas
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£285,000 D66

Chris Davies

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Verandah With Sea Views!
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£112,000 D60

Winchester Close, Barry
3 Bedroom Property
Well Kept Throughout
uPVC; Gas CH; No Chain
£121,500 C71

Salisbury Road, Barry
2 Double Bedrooms; 2 Receptions
Backing On To Porthkerry Road
First Floor Bathroom; West End; No Chain
£132,000 D64

The Rise, Barry
3 Bedrooms; 2/3 Receptions
G Flr Bathroom & 1st Floor Shower Room
Drive; Wheelchair Friendly
£139,950 E50

Priory Gardens, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Lawned Family Rear Garden
Utility Room; Replaced uPVC
£179,950 D59

Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry
3 Bedrooms; 2 Receps
Stunning Kitchen/Dining Rm
Luxury Bathrooms
£215,000 D68

Pontypridd Road, Barry
3 Double Bedrooms; Living Room
Conservatory; 125'/38m Rear Garden
Superb Order Throughout
£279,950 D67

Afal Sur, Barry
4/5 Bedrooms; 2/3 Receptions
Suit Three Generations
Family Gardens; Sea Views
£309,950 C72

Havant Close, Rhoose
First Floor Flat
2 Double Bedrooms
Communal Parking & Gardens
£95,000 B81

Meadowcroft, Rhoose
2 Double Bedrooms
Significant Extension & Improvements
Detached Garage & Drive Afront
£154,950 C75

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms; No Chain
Backing Open Fields
Double Length Garage
£159,950 D68

Murlande Way, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms
3 Receps & Conservatory
Adjoining Fields & Sea Views
£199,950 D64

Nurston Close, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms
Very Nicely Refurbished
No Onward Chain
£220,000 D58

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms; 2 Receptions
Immaculate Order Throughout
Super Sunny Level Rear Garden
£224,950 D69

Hearte Close, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms/2 Receptions
Select Cul-De-Sac Location
Large Family Rear Garden
£230,000 D62

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
2 Reception Rooms and Conservatory
Double Garage; Greatly Improved
£249,950 C70

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Romanza House,
Cei Dafydd, Barry.
Upper Floor Apartment,
Two Bedrooms,
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C77. Band E. £600 PCM

Milward Road, Barry.
Three storey house,
Three bedrooms,
Kitchen and dining area,
bottom floor.
Band C. D56. £675 PCM

Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose.
Three Bedrooms,
Shower, Garage.
E50. Band D. £675 PCM

Pembroke Place,
Llantwit Major,
Detached 3 Bedroom,
2 Receptions,
Large Kitchen Diner.
E54. Band E. £795 PCM

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Detached,
Four Bedrooms,
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E54. Band F. £850 PCM

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Property. Two Bathrooms,
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Bathroom, Large Utility.
D66. Band E. £975 PCM

Heol Pearetree, Rhoose.
Five bedrooms,
High spec kitchen,
Conservatory,
Two ensuites.
D64. Band G. £1,300 PCM

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Call Dawn or Sally to book a viewing
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lettings@chris-davies.co.uk

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1 or 2 bedroom apartment Val d'Isere although Tignes considered.

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3 Bedrooms/2 Receptions
Outstanding Potential To Develop
Large Plot; uPVC; Drive & Garage
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Very Generous Plot; Detached Double Garage
Immaculate Order; Select Cul-De-Sac
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Heol Pearetree, Rhoose Point
5 Bedrooms/3 Receptions
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NEW

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- REPLACEMENT BATHROOM
- GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- PARTIAL SEA VIEWS FROM REAR
- ER=C

£124,950

NEW

OBAN STREET, BARRY
- FORECOURTED TRADITIONAL
- WELL PRESENTED MID TERRACED
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BATHROOMS & FAMILY BATHROOM
- BASEMENT ROOM USED AS GYM
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL

£124,950

NEW

GLAMORGAN ST, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- EXTENDED TO GROUND FLOOR
- THROUGH LIVING/DINING ROOM
- SITTING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- NO CHAIN
- EPC=D

£127,500

NEW

ST. ANDREWS ROAD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- DRIVEWAY
- AMPLE SPACE TO EXTEND(SUBJECT TO USUAL PLANNING)
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ADVISED
- ER=D

£119,950

NEW

CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- CONTEMPORARY FITTED KITCHEN
- INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- TWO BEDROOMS
- HOBBY/ATTIC AREA WITH VELUX WINDOWS
- UPVC DG - GCH VIA COMBI
- BRICK BUILT STORAGE SHED
- NO CHAIN EPC =E
- FABULOUS WATER VIEWS

£124,950

NEW

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL MID TERRACED DWELLING
- TWO LIVING ROOMS
- SPACIOUS DINER/KITCHEN
- FOUR BEDROOMS WITH ENSUITE
- FAR REACHING VIEWS ACROSS BRISTOL CHANNEL
- LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- EPC = E

£224,950

NEW PRICE

LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY
- MODERN SEMI DETACHED
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPVC D/G GCH
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- OPEN PLAN GARDEN/DRIVEWAY
- WELL PRESENTED
- NO CHAIN
- ER=D

£128,500

NEW PRICE

BROAD STREET, BARRY
- END OF TERRACED
- TRADITIONAL DWELLING
- TWO REC. ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- 2ND FLOOR: 2 BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED
- ER=E

£174,950

TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED
- ORIGINAL FEATURES THROUGHOUT
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM OPENING TO KITCHEN
- SITTING ROOM
- FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SPACOUS FAMILY BATHROOM
- SEA VIEWS FROM THE REAR
- LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- ER=E

£239,950

BELL STREET, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (3RD ACCESSIBLE FROM BED 2)
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- LANE ACCESS
- NO CHAIN
- ER = D

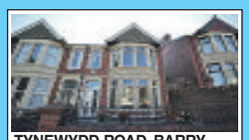
£111,950

LLEWELYN STREET, BARRY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- END TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING/DINING
- ENCLOSED COURTYARD REAR
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- ER=D

£104,950

LEE ROAD, BARRY
- WELL PRESENTED
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- THREE BATHROOMS
- MAY 2015
- COMBINATION BOILER
- MODERN FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- UTILITY/CLOAKROOM
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- ER=D

£104,950



TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
- TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM, SITTING ROOM
- W.C. CLOAKROOM
- LUXURY BATHROOM WITH ROLL TOP BATH
- SEA VIEWS ACROSS BRISTOL CHANNEL
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ATTIC/HOBBY ROOM
- VERY WELL PRESENTED
- ER=F

£239,950

GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY
- STUNNING PRESENTATION
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- WALLED FORECOURTED AREA
- TWO SEPARATE REC ROOMS
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- GARAGE - LANE ACCESS
- REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- ER = D

£121,950

DAVID STREET, BARRY
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS NATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER=D

£99,950

SSTC More Needed

HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY
- VERSATILE LIVING THROUGHOUT
- GRD FLOOR:WC, LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY, BEDROOM, UTILITY ROOM
- INTEGRAL GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- EPC=C

£234,950

SSTC More Needed

ST LYTHANS RD, BARRY
- SEMI DETACHED
- BAY FRONTED
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- LARGER THAN AVERAGE GARDEN
- NO CHAIN
- DRIVEWAY
- GARAGE
- ER=E

£204,950

SSTC More Needed

TREM Y DON, BARRY
- STUNNING SHOW HOME PRESENTED
- ORIGINAL FEATURES
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- 1ST FLOOR: FOUR BEDROOMS (ENSUITE)
- DINING ROOM, SHOWER ROOM
- 2ND FLOOR: FIFTH BEDROOM (ENSUITE)
- HOUSED HOT TUB/SAUNA
- DOUBLE GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
- EPC=E

£479,950

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"Can't thank Nina, Kirsty and the team enough for all their amazing support, advice and patience whilst buying our first house. They made the whole process so easy, stress free, and secured our dream house! We still can't believe it and it wouldn't have happened without Nina Estate Agents! Can't recommend enough!! Thank you!"

"I would like to thank Nina and her team for all her help in getting our her first home they have been very patient with us all as not only did she get her first home but also help me and my husband down size which took weeks of hard work finding us something as nice as we already had. You are all amazing and thank you again xxx"

"Have dealt with Nina and her staff in both sales and rentals. I have purchased, sold and let many properties through multiple estate agents and have always found Nina's first class. Nina's estate agents know all their properties inside out and know the local market to a tee. If you want professional and honest advice from a non chain estate agents for Barry it's got to be Nina's."

"Our agent was Pauline and she was fantastic! The whole team at Nina's are a credit to the profession. We have settled very nicely into our new home and would recommend them to anyone looking to buy or sell. Thank you."

"Used Nina and her team for sales and letting and I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work and professionalism!"

"5* service from start to finish, all staff are very friendly and always there to help when needed without delay. I sold my house with Nina and also bought one of their advertised properties, we had plenty of viewings, the advertising was almost instant from the moment we decided to sell and the friendliness from all of the staff was perfect! The best estate agents in the area without a doubt and I'd have no hesitation in using their services again next time!"

Eight goal thriller sees Athletic share the points

ON a cold November afternoon the Athletic first team hosted a Dinas team who had only three months earlier put seven past them!

The home team started the slower and found themselves two goals down after only 15 minutes. That seemed to finally wake the Athletic up though and good work from Kyle Caton and Jake Oaten up top found Jay Hammill with the ball at his feet and he made no mistake in placing the ball past the keeper to half the deficit.

Only a couple of minutes later a penalty was awarded to the home side when a cross from Oaten was handled by the Dinas defender. Nathan Gratton made no mistake in slotting the penalty away to make it 2-2.

Dinas almost took the lead again on 40 minutes when the striker played the offside trap expertly, but was denied by a wonderful reaction save from Huw Davies in the Athletic goal to keep the scoreline level.

Dinas were awarded a penalty on 45 minutes when again a corner wasn't dealt with and was eventually handled by the Athletic defender. The Dinas striker made no mistake from the penalty spot, putting the away side up 3-2 at the break.

The second half began and with only 20 seconds on the clock Kyle Caton raced away down the left, and produced some lovely skill with a fantastic cut back to Marc Williams to again level the game up!

With Caton and Oaten in fine form up front the home side could now taste victory and were denied on numerous occasions by the Dinas keeper. Unbelievably, the away side once again took the lead through another penalty!

Changes were made with TeeJay Caton and Lee Stradling coming on to find another equaliser and with the home side now having four strikers on the pitch it was the ever persistent Jake Oaten who raced on to a ball in the ball to place the ball past the keeper to make it 4-4 and complete the scoring.

The home side were unlucky not to find a winner in the final few minutes of the game but can take positives from the 'never-say-die' attitude that saw them come back three times in the game when previously this wouldn't have been the case.

The club would like to thank referee Paul Bright for a fair game and wish Dinas Athletic all the best for the rest of the season.

DIVISION 2 - MASTER MARINER 1, BARRY ATHLETIC 5

In classic winter footballing conditions Athletic maintained their good form with a convincing win against The Mariner.

Manager Jeff Howells shuffled his pack with numerous players missing through injury and work commitments.

It took a while for Athletic to get the breakthrough but it came from a father and son partnership with Ady Gratton whipping in a trademark cross onto the head of Billy Gratton to leave the keeper stranded with a glancing header.

It was another precise header at the back post from the energetic Danny Morgan that put the Athletic 2-0 up and in control after the half-hour.

The second half saw Athletic continue to dominate the game and push for more goals. It was Danny Morgan that grabbed his second with a fantastic finish from out wide that made it 3-0 and a stunning 25 yard drive from Izaac Farrag put the game out of reach for the Mariner.

Billy Gratton then nipped in with a poacher's finish to get his second of the game and make it 5-0.

Atheltic's defence of keeper Sam Rees-Davies, Jamie Deguara, Eddie Roe, Farrag and Ady Gratton were left disappointed when the ever-running Jordan Yeoman grabbed a late consolation goal for Mariner. Veteran keeper Dave Stringer was outstanding in the Mariner goal, thwarting the Athletic on numerous occasions.

Thanks to Nick Silva, who refereed a game played in a great spirit in difficult conditions.

AG

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+ Grade II Listed detached property
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RICS

Barry's 'local derby' in first round of Cup

BARRY Chess Club entered two teams into the East Glamorgan Chess Association Knock Out Cup, and for the second year running, both were drawn to meet each other in the first round.

This gave a welcome opportunity for the club's wider membership to play an extra game before the club's higher graded players pick up the baton in the next round.

The two teams were evenly matched, with match captain Martin Ricketts deliberately selecting players to create opportunity for all, and it did not disappoint.

First blood went to Merlin Davies on board three who made the most of Ray Denyer's mistake in giving away a rook.

This was soon followed by an excellent win for David Jones on board two, who defeated in-form Jason Grice. Jason was a bishop up before losing an exchange of pieces, and his concentration!

There was a right old tussle on board four where in a tight game, Huw Davies defeated John Rees who fought valiantly, but it was all over when Huw queened his pawn.

On top board, in a tactical but very even match, Chris Green and John Stephenson settled for a draw.

The result, 2.5–1.5, means that the Barry B team now progress to the next round where they will meet either Pontypridd or North Cardiff.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards.

MR

Go to the 'The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
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- A very well presented three storey 4 bedroom mid link town house
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£185,000

LEE ROAD, BARRY
- A 3 bedroom mid terrace property in good decorative order
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- Low maintenance garden to the rear
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- Sold leasehold with approx 874 years remaining
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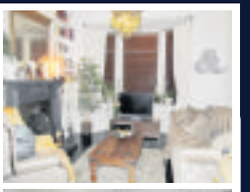
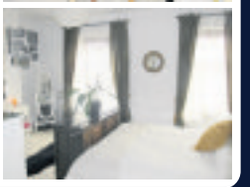
£122,000

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Close to transport links in & out of Barry
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Sold freehold with no onward chain
£104,950

NEW
OBAN STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 2 bedroom Victorian bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Forecourt garden to the front with a raised garden to the rear
- Would make an ideal first purchase/family home
- Offered freehold
£112,000

RENTALS

Arthur Street, Barry
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Ivor Street, Barry
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Barry seconds' first win of the season

BARRY second XV were hoping to revive their league fortunes with the visit of Llanishen after a series of disappointing results.

Coaches Rhidian Scott and Martin Tanner were finally given the luxury of having just one late withdrawal on Saturday morning, and therefore were able to prepare a side that could potentially gain a result.

Dave Williams and Rhys Knapman both made their first appearances of the season, while there was a welcome return to injury for Joe Gallivan at scrum-half.

The better pre-match preparation was there for all to see as Barry adapted well to the conditions straight from kick-off, despite playing into the wind and against the slope.

The pressure applied by the Barry back-row of Lee Jones, Callum Scott and Curtis Miller told when Llanishen were forced to concede a penalty from kickable range, only for Wayne Jones to spurn that opportunity.

Llanishen came back into the game when they dominated territory in the second quarter of the half, but were unable to make the breakthrough as a combination of discipline defence and last-ditch tackling kept them abay.

Instead, Barry struck when a simple move initiated by Scott saw Garth Peake breaking through unopposed to score under the posts. Jones added the extras.

The visitors continued to probe around the fringes but Barry held firm to lead 7-0 at the break.

Coach Scott sent on the reinforcements from the bench in the form of Ben Such and Joel Williams as the back-line reshuffled.

This initially did not have an impact as Llanishen reduced the deficit with an early penalty.

The backline settled somewhat on the hour mark, and there were clean breaks made by Knapman, Dave Williams, Peake and Miller, but none amounted to a score.

It was down to Wayne Jones, now at centre, who spotted a gap in the Llanishen defence to race through to score his second try of the season. Joel Williams added the extras to give the hosts breathing space.

Barry should have gone further ahead but some poor decision making by backs and forwards alike saw opportunities spurned, no more so than when Such ignored a six-man overlap to go for the line, only to see himself held up just short.

Barry almost paid for their lack of ruthlessness with the try-line beckoning when Llanishen piled on the pressure in the closing stages following Kyle Case's sin-binning. With the clock ticking down the visitors earned a penalty try to reduce the deficit to four points.

With only a minute remaining Barry should have played out the game safely, but a combination of comical handling and good Llanishen recycling saw the visitors still within a chance of gaining an unlikely win.

The referee's whistle to award a penalty to the hosts was a welcome relief for players and management alike, and Barry hung on for the first victory of the season, the final score 14-10.

The management would like to thank the players' commitment and this just shows how much the squad could achieve if the coaches are allowed to prepare the team properly without having to deal with late withdrawals.

The second XV visit Clwb Rygbi this weekend while the third team travel to Whitchurch.

Team: Mepham; D Williams, Peake, Russell, Knapman; W Jones, Gallivan; Hall, Turnbull, Fortt; Deyes, Case ©; L Jones, Scott, Miller. Replacements: Such, McTavish, Evans, J Williams. Man-of-the-match: Deyes. **KC**

The Barry and District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 9, Moors Boys 6; West End Runaways 9, Liberals 6; Wyndham Cons 10, Rhoose Social 5.

League table: West End 72, Wyndham Cons 71, Liberals 68, West End Runaways 65, Rhoose Social 58, Cadoxton Cons 56, Moors Boys 45.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 0, Rugby Club 7; King William XII 1, Barries Boys 6; Allsorts 6, Rhoose Social A 1; Slammers 1, Cambrian Flyers 6; Liberals C 1, Rhoosters 6; Rhoose Social C 4, Liberals A 3; West End D 5, West End C 2.

League table: Sea View B 47, Rugby Club 37, King William XII 35, West End D 34, Rhoose Social B 31.5, Barries Boys 31, Allsorts 30.5, West End C 29, Liberals A 27, Slammers 27, Rhoosters 26, Rhoose Social A 24.5, Cambrian Flyers 21, Liberals C 20.5, Rhoose Social C 13.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Cadoxton Cons B 4, Caddy Allstars 1; Wyndham Cons A 3, Market Street C 2; Savoy A 4, Harbour B 1; Rhoose Social C 1, West End C 4; Penarth Cons B 3, Rhoose Social B 2.

League table: Savoy A 40, Harbour B 36, West End C 31, Cadoxton Cons B 29, Wyndham Cons A 26, Rhoose Social C 21, *Cadoxton Cons Z 20, Caddy Allstars 17, Rhoose Social B 16, Market Street C 15, Penarth Cons B 15.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Wyndham Cons C 1, Market Street B 4; Cadoxton Cons A 5, Liberators 0; Savoy B 2, Penarth Cons A 3; Services Social B 5, Sully Sports A 0; West End A 3, Wyndham Cons D 2.

League table: Liberators 34, Services Social B 32, Market Street B 31, Penarth Cons A 27, Savoy B 25, Cadoxton Cons A 24, Wyndham Cons C 23, Sully Sports A 19, West End A 19, West End B 17, Wyndham Cons D 14 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'. **JW**

Vale of Glamorgan bridge results

RESULTS for November 23:

1st Liam Sheridan & John Beard 63.64%, 2nd Sue Norris & Sue Summerhayes 60.61%, 3rd Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 58.52%.

LE

Sports just defeated by Ferndale RFC

SULLY Sports RFC entertained second place Ferndale hoping to build on the previous week's victory, and get some momentum back into their season.

Playing against the strong wind at the start, the visitors were first to gain the upper hand, as their possession was either used by their quick inventive backs, or kicked deep into Sports territory to set up attacking possibilities.

These tactics soon paid dividends, and with 10 minutes gone they were successful with a short range penalty in front of the posts. A minute later, from a line-out on their own 22, the Ferndale scrum-half made a 60 metre break which led to a try in the corner, to which the extra points were added.

At last the Sports woke up and their pack dominated the tight to provide plenty of possession, wisely used by fly-half Dai Harris to pin the visitors back for long periods.

Not to be outdone, it was the home scrum-half, Rhys Manford, who took off on a 80 metre run that was stopped two metres short of the try line, but from this position, a series of drives eventually led to a try for prop Jodie Velda, converted by Jake Williams.

Back in the game, the Sports turned off a minute later when conceding a penalty on halfway. The visitors took a quick tap, and sped through a disorganised home defence for another converted try in the corner.

The Sports regrouped, again taking the initiative through the pack's dominance, and as the 40 minutes were up, struck again through Adam Wheeler with an unconverted try.

But in the second minute of added time, the Sports were again caught napping at a quickly taken penalty, which as before yielded a converted try in the corner, the final score 24-19.

Although the wind had died in the second half, the Sports were able to dominate territorially and possession wise, but were only able to gain a losing bonus point with Adam Wheeler's second try, converted by Jake Williams.

Ferndale went home the happier, having withstood the second half siege, but the Sports can take comfort from their display, as it proved they can compete with the top sides in their division.

CLUB NOTICES

Fixtures - Saturday, November 28 – firsts v Whitchurch RFC, seconds v Fairwater seconds, both kick offs 2.30pm. Friday, November 27– veterans reunion at club from 7.30pm. Saturday, November 28 – hypnotist night, tickets £11 (including meal) available from R Gully, chairman, and also at the clubhouse. **MS**

George's joy

THE Vale's George Blackwell had plenty to smile about at Ludlow on Monday when he rode his first winner under rules.

George (16), a graduate of the point-to-point pony racing and Arab horse racing circuit, landed the Totepool Racing's Biggest Supporter Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle on Vodka Island, a 16-1 outsider, and in doing so was ending a long losing run by the six-year-old bay mare's trainer, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan.

George, son of former leading point-to-point rider Steve Blackwell, brought the mare home three and a quarter lengths ahead of the favourite Ordensritter.

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Additional information is available at: **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**.

For an application pack contact Housing Strategy by telephone on (01446) 709476, or by e-mail at housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 2 December 2015

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Newydd Housing Association
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ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 119461
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator
- Communal door/gardens

Rent £106.58 per week including service charge

CARDIFF ROAD, DINAS POWYS

H4U reference 230588
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £111.46 per week including water charges

COLLEGE FIELDS, BARRY

H4U reference 101050
Suit for a family meeting the max occupancy requirement over 40
- Two-bed flat (no pets)
- First floor
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Parking/garden

Rent £90.56 per week including service charges

CRAWSHAY DRIVE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U reference 234211
Suitable for applicants over 55 with a medical priority
- Two-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens/alarm

Rent £108.94 pw inc water and alarm charges

CRIB Y SIANEL, RHOOSE

Priority given to applicants with local area connections

H4U Reference 121658
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens/parking

Rent £102.61 per week including service charge

GLYNDWR ROAD, PENARTH

H4U reference 252158
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £111.78 per week including water charges

HERBERT STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 211910
Preference given to larger families
- Three-bed parlour house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £106.78 per week including water charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U reference 121646
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £90.38 per week including service charges

MAES Y DYFAN, BARRY (NEW BUILD)

No image available

H4U reference 121701
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- 11 x two-bedroom houses
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £96.26 per week, service charge to be confirmed

MAES Y DYFAN, BARRY (NEW BUILD)

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H4U reference 121696
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- 3 x three-bedroom houses
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £97.89 per week, service charge to be confirmed

MAES Y DYFAN, BARRY (NEW BUILD)

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H4U reference 121725
Suitable for a single person or couple
- 3 x one-bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £75.58 per week, service charge to be confirmed

MAES Y DYFAN, BARRY (NEW BUILD)

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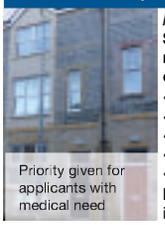
H4U reference 121713
Suitable for a single person or couple
- 3 x one-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £75.58 per week, service charge to be confirmed

MAIN STREET, BARRY



Priority given for applicants with medical need

H4U Reference 121634
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Wet room (no bath)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £90.02 per week including service charge

MEIRIONETH HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 121555
Suitable for a single person or couple over 50 with a medical priority
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (lift)
- Level access shower
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £77.98 per week

MONTGOMERY ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 217172
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £106.63 per week including water charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 969529
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

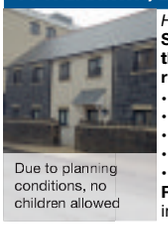
Rent £84.75 per week including service charge

ST PAULS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245844
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £91.79 per week including water charges

TY'R BARNWR, BARRY

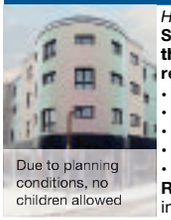


Due to planning conditions, no children allowed

H4U reference 121660
Suit for a family meeting the max occupancy requirement – no pets
- 2 x two-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Communal door/parking

Rent £93.00 per week including service charges

TY'R GYFRAITH, BARRY



Due to planning conditions, no children allowed

H4U reference 121684
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Birth Notices

JUST FOR YOU

***Ella Rhian** - born November 16, 2015*

I'm sorry I'm unable to say what you mean to me,
But I suffer from Alzheimer's which stole my memory;
Of your parents and of you – I am pleased and so proud,
And if I could, I know I would shout it out so loud,
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

I'd look forward to holding you and taking you for a walk,
I'd teach you lots of simple things, how to read – how to talk.
I'd love you when you're happy and also when you're sad,
I'd be there always for you – through times good and bad,
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

I'd guide you through your early years, teach you right from wrong,
I'd nurse you when you're ill and comfort you with a song.
There are so many things I would want to share with you,
Easter egg hunt, Christmas and birthdays to mention but a few.
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

So I leave you this poem, written by great grand-dad, but for me,
It reflects my love and pleasure for the new leaf on our tree.
Enjoy your life my darling and always try your best,
Be fair in all the things you do and you'll be truly blessed.
For I am your great grandmother and I love you.

Congratulations to Lauren John & Lewis Williams
on the birth of a beautiful baby girl
ELLA RHIAN
on 16th November
Congratulations and love from all the family xxx

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Family Notices

LLOYD
Fay (Violet Fay Susannah)

Peacefully at UHW on November 16. Beloved wife of the late Ted, much loved mother of Stuart and Rosalind, mother-in-law of Evan and dear grandmother of Jason, Sara and Troy. Resident until 1976 of Fairwater, Cardiff and then of Alwen Drive, Barry. Former Cardiff City Councillor and Barry Town Councillor and tireless member of the Autistic Society for many years.

Will be sadly missed by all.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Barry until the funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, November 27 at 11am, followed by internment at Barry Cemetery at noon.

CAMPBELL
Isabella *(known as Isobel)*

Passed away peacefully on November 23, at Milsom House, St Athan, aged 71 years. Isobel was a much loved mother to Ian, Elaine and Margaret, and mother-in-law to Jayne, Nigel and Chris. She was adored by her grandchildren Toby, Nia, Ellie, Rhys and Eira.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son until the funeral ceremony on Tuesday, December 1 in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am, followed by a committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

Family flowers only by request, donations if desired payable to Velindre Cancer Care at www.velindrefundraising.com or cheques c/o the funeral home.

D'ARCY
Sheila Mary *(née McKeon)*
of Ogmore by Sea, Vale of Glamorgan

Peacefully on 17th November, aged 93, with her daughters Ann and Cecilia and son Tim at her side. Much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother and sister. Widow of Squadron Leader Bernard D'Arcy, DFC, RAF (Retired).

Requiem Mass on Tuesday, 1st December, 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, followed by a short committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Emmaus South Wales, telephone 01656 332756, ext. 201- www.emmaus.org.uk/south wales.

All other enquiries to Condon Funeral Service, Glanafan Court 50 Margam Road, Port Talbot, SA13 2BN, telephone 01639 883688.

BROWN
Lynne (Brownie)

Suddenly on November 14 at the University Hospital of Wales – Lynne, well known for her time as a club stewardess within Barry. Much loved mum of Martin, David and Christine. An adored nanna of Natasha, Ellie, Ethan, Jay, Joshua, Lauren, Seren, Cairan and Charlie.

She will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Lynne is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at their Windsor Road Chapel (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, December 1 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Floral tributes may be sent to the Funeral Home, alternatively donations may be made at the service or via Lynne's tribute page: www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Velindre Hospital in her memory.

Black attire optional.

LEADBITTER
Anthony (Tony)

Died peacefully on November 24, after a short illness in Llandough Hopsital. Much loved husband of Patricia Leadbitter and loving father of two children, Fiona and Simon.

With thanks to the staff of Llandough Hospital for their dedicated, kind, and caring support.

Details of the funeral service to be announced.

JAMES
Terry

Peacefully on November 19 at The University Hospital of Wales, after a long illness. Terry, devoted husband of Sue, much loved dad of Leigh, Debbie & Martin, cherished grampy of Kurtis & Courtney, special father-in-law to Emma, Andrew & Claire.

Terry will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the private funeral home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, December 3 at 2.15pm. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home or donations may be made at the service or via Terry's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk in aid of Marie Curie.

All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

GILLHAM
Reg

Peacefully at UHW, The Heath, Cardiff on November 18, Reg of Barry. Devoted husband of Doris, loving father of Steven and father-in-law to Debbie. Beloved brother of Joan and adored uncle to his many nephews and nieces in the USA. Reg will be greatly missed by his many friends and former colleagues, including those from IMI Santon, Newport; Barry Athletic Bowls Club; Paget Rooms & Rhoose Tea Dancing Club.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral on Tuesday, December 1. Service in the chapel at 1pm, afterwards cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

No flowers by request, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral service in aid of Kidney Research and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

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BURT
William Henry (MBE)

Bill, beloved husband of the late Mavis, formerly of Haulfryn, Tondu, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, November 17 at Bryn-Y-Cae Residential Home. Loving father of Adrian and Angela, much loved "Papa" of Nicola, Nigel, Alistair and Andrew, devoted "Great Papa", father-in-law to Beth and the late Bob.

Resting at Rosemount Funeral Home. Funeral service on Monday, November 30 in Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only.

Bill's family would like to invite you all to join them at the Masons Arms, Bryncethin following the service for light refreshments where donations, may be given in lieu of flowers to the Stroke Association.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel: 01656 653156.

DAVIES
John Evan (Kelsy)

Passed away suddenly on November 16, John of Llantwit Major.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, December 2 at 1.15pm in Coychurch Crematorium.

Will be sadly missed by his friends and cousins Geoff and Neil.

SHAW
Mari *(Jones)*

Passed away peacefully at Bath United Hospital after a courageous fight for life.

Mari was a deputy head girl at Cowbridge Comprehensive in 1985. Although fighting Hodgkins disease since she was 18 years old, she qualified as a Gynaecologist and later became a practising G.P. Mari was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. She has lived a full life, an example to us all, supported by husband Pete.

"There are two ways you can get through pain. You can let it destroy you or you can use it as fuel to drive you..."

Mari is sadly missed by Pete, Anne, Nick, Nigel & Mair Tel 01446 772843.

COLE
Michael George

At home with his family on November 18, Mick, aged 65 years. Beloved husband of Nikki, much loved dad of Sam, Jack and daughter-in-law Sam, loved tadgu to Erin and Matilda.

Mick will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the requiem mass at St Helens Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, December 1 at 10.30am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

TAYLOR
Ivor Charles

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on November 15, Ivor aged 89 years. Much loved husband of the late Marjorie, much loved dad of Marilyn, Pauline and Nicholas. Loved father-in-law to Barri, Richard and Denise, also a cherished grandad and great grandad. Ivor will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Monday, November 30 at 10am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the funeral director.

PENNEY
Brian James

Unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, November 15. Beloved husband of Carol. Devoted father and stepfather to Mark, Victoria, Carolyn, Debby and Richard. Much loved Pappy to Megan, Daniel, Ben, Lily, Evan, Oscar and Ella.

Funeral service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, December 3 at 12 noon, followed by private interment at Monknash Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to British Red Cross or Cancer Research UK Cymru c/o W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major (cheques only).

Local dance group wins £5,000 award

A DANCE charity passionate about helping young people in the Vale of Glamorgan to pursue their dreams of becoming performers, has won a £5,000 community award that will help set up a unique dance company.

Motion, Control, Dance (MCD) was set up by OneFamily customer and project leader, Emma Mallam.

A dance teacher herself, she works with young people and adults with disabilities, mental health issues, obesity problems, the older generation, ethnic groups as well as socially deprived members of the community, helping advance their education through the medium of dance.

The £5,000 OneFamily Foundation award funding will be used to set up an inclusive youth dance company for those living in the region and aged between 16 and 30 years old, both able and disabled members, all of whom are passionate about performing.

MCD will now be able to employ two professional freelance tutors with experience of working with both able and disabled young people, and to subsidise the hall hire costs for rehearsals, in preparation for various performances throughout the year.

"Everyone benefits," explained Emma. "The dance group will perform at a variety of local community events throughout the coming year. Participants will create dances that tackle issues that are relevant to them, which we hope will help them become inspirational leaders in the region.

"Their work will in turn provide entertainment and education for audience members, so that ultimately, the whole community will be enriched."

The OneFamily Foundation is a unique customer benefit fund, provided by mutual, OneFamily, which intends to make £5million available to its members over five years to make their lives and communities better.

James Hale, customer engagement manager at OneFamily said: "We are delighted to award £5,000 to MCD, which will allow the charity's grassroots programme to grow into a performance company for local people who wish to pursue a career in dance.

"It's wonderful to see a community come together to develop such an admirable project and we're only too pleased to be a part of it."

Emma added: "This money will allow our members to break down barriers and broaden their horizons, as they learn new skills working together to create performances for the benefit of the community.

"I'm so proud of everyone involved and I want to say a huge thank you to OneFamily and everyone who voted. We really appreciate everyone who supported us and helped to make winning this award possible."

'I will certainly use cycle path'

WITH reference to a letter in last week's GEM, how thoughtful of our transport planners to provide a safe and environmentally-friendly alternative for visitors arriving at Barry Island on a bicycle.

The new cycle path will encourage families and children to travel in a style that is in keeping with the sunshine and fresh air of their destination.

And contrary to the claims of your anonymous correspondent ('cyclists will not use the path'), I often cycle in Barry and will certainly use it.

Perhaps I could add a suggestion that cycles are officially permitted to travel up the hill opposite The Ship on a combined cycle/footpath.

The current footpath is wide enough to allow this (especially now that the overgrown bushes at the railway bridge have been cut back) and this route is often used unofficially.

This would complement the new cycle path on the lower part of Harbour Road and provide safer and more convenient access back to the town centre.

Simon Toner, Barry.

Pre-loved sale

A PRE-LOVED sale will be held at Evergreen Hall, Bridgend on Saturday, November 28.

Doors open 12.30pm. Clothes, shoes, handbags and designer bits & bobs!

Admission 50p to include tea and coffee. A percentage will go to the Stroke Association Bridgend.

Rowers celebrate success!

Some of the Supa Vets team with the trophy - from left: Kelvin Spear, Ian Mason, Arlene Mason, Tony Peters, Paul Fisher, Nicola Spear and Bella.

AT the recent Welsh Sea Rowing Association Dinner and Awards ceremony in Aberystwyth, Barry Yacht Club sea rowers were presented with a trophy for winning the men's Supa Vets South league.

Still in only the third year of rowing this is a tremendous achievement for the club.

Competing in the league involved travelling to most parts of the south west coast of Wales from Wiseman's Bridge to as far afield as Aberystwyth.

Great credit must go to all those who rowed and coxed in the Supa Vets boat and to all our supporters who travelled many hundreds of miles over the course of the season.

2015 has been a brilliant year for the sea rowing at Barry Yacht Club and we look forward with anticipation to the start of events in 2016.

Meanwhile, we continue to train on the water as often as the weather allows and carry on with our land based training.

If anyone would like to try out the fantastic sport of sea rowing then you can get in touch with us by email at rowingsection@barryyachtclub.co.uk, and if you'd like more information follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BarryRowers.

PF

Paul Fisher, representing Barry, being presented with the trophy by David Thomson.

Rhoose Bowls Club celebrates end of season

RHOOSE Bowls Club celebrated the end of a successful season with their presentation evening at St Athan Golf Club.

Thirty three members attended and enjoyed a wonderful evening where the successful winners of the summer competitions were presented with their trophies and prize money.

Unfortunately the overall winner of the club singles competition and club champion, Mr Colin Ashdown, was unable to attend, but the following winners were there to receive their prizes, presented by club president Jo Hopkins:

Four bowl winner - Rita Craig; Two bowl winner - Sue Dance; ladies pairs winners - Rita Craig and Sue Dance; Mens' two bowl winner - Hugh Jupp; Mens pairs winners - Geoff Lages and Tony Lages.

All members are looking forward to next year and it is hoped that we will be able to welcome some new members who may be interested in the wonderful game of bowls.

Information will be printed in The GEM early next year. **RC**

Barry school's shopping evening

YSGOL Sant Baruc is holding a Christmas shopping evening on Wednesday, December 2, 6pm to 8pm in the school, in St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

There will be stalls selling items including wine, books, jewellery, Christmas decorations, gifts, and cakes.

GYMNASTS EXCEL...

IN a boys gymnastics event held in Birmingham recently, Harri Morgan of Llantwit Major came 16th in the nationals 14s age group.

Sammi Morgan (Llantwit Major) was part of the young under-12s (2004) team that won gold (Wales compete as a region), and the overall winner was Oscar Harper from Swansea; another team member was Rhys Griffiths from Ogmore Vale.

In the British championships in Bracknell, Mali Morgan (year 2006) came third overall as the Welsh team won silver, and has been invited to join the Great Britain national team training squad.

BM

BRYNHILL LADIES HOLD PRESENTATION EVENING

THE Brynhill Golf Club ladies' section recently held its presentation evening.

Awards went to the following:

Championship winner - Gemma Evans; golfer of the year - Andrea Page, who also won the foursomes knockout with Olwen Thomas; Diak championship - Julie Harkin; the Jenny Williams Plate was awarded to Helena Coombes for supporting the lady captain throughout the year.

The night was enjoyed by all the lady golfers, the cups being awarded in the early part of the evening. After the cups were filled and members danced to the disco until the early hours.

GOLF RESULTS

November 3, Turkey Trot - winner Andrea Page 18 points, runner-up Sue Holland 17 points.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 1, Christmas decorations by Hilary West, December 8, mince pie morning.

CH

Home loss for Penarth hockey team

ON an already relatively quiet weekend, Penarth Hockey Club was reduced to just one completed game as a member of the first XI's opposition suffered a serious injury, causing their match to be abandoned and leaving the seconds as the only side in GoCrea8 league action.

PENARTH A 1, LLANISHEN & CAERPHILLY 'A' 2

With only seven teams in the restructured De Cymru 2 division, Penarth's second XI will become very familiar with the opposition over the course of the season, with Llanishen & Caerphilly the first repeat opponent as the fixture list entered its second round of games.

Despite having despatched the Cardiff side 4-1 in the opening match of what became an unbeaten swing through part one of the campaign, Penarth were not taking anything for granted ahead of the second meeting, and their caution proved well-founded as Llanishen & Caerphilly turned up at Stanwell with a much-strengthened side.

Although able to field a strong line-up of their own, Penarth found themselves on the back foot in the opening period, calling on goalkeeper Adam Putt to keep them in the game with a couple of important saves.

Putt was helpless, however, when the visitors finally found a spare man in the 'D' and opened the scoring with a well-worked move.

Stung by falling behind for the first time this season, Penarth gradually took a greater share of possession, but were still vulnerable to Llanishen & Caerphilly breaks, and went further behind in an almost identical situation where a forward was left unattended on the penalty spot.

Penarth had opportunities to pull a goal back, but squandered a series of penalty corners before the break, ending the half 2-0 down and knowing they had a lot of work to do to maintain their unbeaten record in the second 35 minutes.

Bolstered by keeping the opposition at bay for the final part of the opening half, Penarth came out determined to chase the game, and enjoyed greater possession and pressure in the second period.

Again, however, composure eluded the home side around the visitors' D, with patient build-up through Mark Robinson and James Kidby going to waste.

At the other end, Penarth's defence of Matt Noble, Craig Llewellyn, Nathan Townsend and James Davies diffused Llanishen & Caerphilly's more sporadic attacks, giving their forwards the opportunity to reduce the deficit.

Although Chris McCarthy, Owen Hopkins and Dave Watkins all had chances to pull at least a goal back, it was the effervescent Tom Parkinson who finally gave the home side some hope, popping up in the D to force the ball home.

The goal, however, came too late in the day and, as Llanishen & Caerphilly closed ranks at the back, further chances proved few and far between for Penarth.

Defeat drops the Bears to second in the De Cymru 2 standings, but new leaders Swansea University only pulled a point ahead after drawing against lowly Whitchurch and Penarth still hold a game in hand over the students.

Victory for Llanishen & Caerphilly, however, ensures that the top three are now separated by just two points heading into the final few games before the Christmas break.

All three Penarth Hockey Club sides return to action this weekend, with the first and second XIs both on their travels, to face Bristol University and Whitchurch respectively.

The third XI, meanwhile, has replaced the league fixture lost to withdrawal of another of the Whitchurch sides by arranging a friendly with Abergavenny at Stanwell School.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm-7.15pm and the seniors between 7.15pm- 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact either player-coach Ben Croxall (b_croxall20@yahoo.co.uk) or club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Brynhill team meets the Barry mayor!

The Brynhill Mail on Sunday team are representing not only Brynhill Golf Club, but also Barry and Wales.

They are one of four teams out of 3,000 who have qualified for the finals in Spain, and the Lady Mayor, Emma Pritchard, invited them to afternoon tea in the Mayor's Parlour in recognition of their achievement.

The team were accompanied by the president, Keith Atkinson and the club captain Rhys Jones and press officer Jo Kirkpatrick.

JK

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Dinas Powys FC suffer defeat after lacklustre performance

THIS was top against bottom of Division 2 in this encounter between Undy Athletic and Dinas Powys FC - and it showed.

Having said that this was a below par performance from Dinas and they can certainly compete much better than this on their day and they know they must improve considerably if they are to escape the relegation zone in the 20 remaining league games.

Once again Dinas had their keeper James Curtin to thank for keeping the score down to five with a string of brave saves.

Dinas started okay with a ball down the line from Rhys Harlin to King Junior Mwezdo but he was disposessed before he could get into the Undy box.

For the first five minutes the visitors were closing Undy down well but the league leaders soon got their passing game going and Dinas were struggling to get any possession.

A free kick from Undy's Tom Hooper was headed wide by one of their strikers, and this was followed by an effort from distance by Dan Jarman which was well wide.

The hosts were pushing forward leaving themselves open to the quick break but Dinas just couldn't get possession of the ball long enough to mount many attacks.

Curtin was called into action early when he had to smother the ball with several Undy players closing in. Dinas skipper Ben Luck cleared a free kick by Jarman well and the visitors began to get into the game with a cross from Mason Ah-Mun winning a corner for Dinas, taken by Nicky Bruce but the Undy defence cleared the danger.

A cross from Undy's number 11 was driven just over Curtin's crossbar by Nathan Woods. Mwedzo was then fouled wide on the left with Bruce taking the kick which the Undy defence turned quickly into attack, and after a goalmouth mellee Psescernesk prodded the ball home for the opener on 30 minutes.

Curtin made another brave save when Gareth Williams was played in but the Dinas shot stopper dived on the ball as he was about to pull the trigger.

Just before half-time Dinas had a half chance when Adam Jones flicked the ball into Mwedzo's path and he got a shot on target which Undy keeper James Smallcombe gathered just under his crossbar.

The last couple of minutes saw Dinas doing better, a Bruce free kick fizzed just wide of the right upright and Adam Jones was played in on goal on the right but was off balance when he shot and his effort was wide.

With only one goal in it as the half-time whistle went, Dinas were still in the game.

The visitors changed their formation at the start of the second period to 3-5-2 to try and get more possession in midfield.

In the first minute a cross from the left by Undy hit the far post and rolled along the goal-line before James Marr cleared the danger.

The formation change did seem to work and Dinas began to get more possession, winning two early free kicks; the first taken by Bruce was just over the bar and the second from around 30 yards, taken by Mwedzo, was wide.

At the other end Curtin made two further reaction saves but, from an Undy corner 10 minutes into the half, Curtin could only parry a shot from Williams and the ball fell to the same player to stab it home for 2-0.

Dinas were then dealt a further blow with 20 minutes gone when Adam Jones had to leave the field with an ankle injury, Tomos Edwards replacing him, and he soon got into the action when Rhys Palmer linked up well with Keiron James to set up Edwards and he hit a superb shot which just skimmed Smallcombe's crossbar from 18 yards.

However, the pressure was short-lived and at the other end Psescernesk evaded two tackles to square the ball to Hooper for an easy tap-in at the far post for 3-0 with 20 minutes remaining.

Just two minutes later they made it 4-0 when Williams was played in through the middle to give Curtin no chance.

Dinas brought on their two remaining substitutes, with Luke Swaffield replacing Rhys Palmer and Mamadu Banguraso taking Scott Muir's place.

Keiron James then made one of his jinking runs into the Undy box but was driven out wide and the chance was gone.

With seven minutes left the hosts added their fifth goal, Hooper bursting through to net and at the final whistle Dinas could have no complaints after a somewhat lacklustre performance.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Rhys Harlin, 3 Mason Ah-Mun, 4 James Marr, 5 Ben Luck (c), 6 Keiron James, 7 Rhys Palmer, 8 Nicky Bruce, 9 Scott Muir, 10 King Junior Mwedzo, 11 Adam Jones, 12 Mamadu Banguraso, 14 Luke Swaffield, 15 Tomos Edwards.

This Saturday, November 28, Dinas travel to play Tata Steel, 2pm kick off, where manager Lee Saunders will be looking for a much improved performance.

PK

Six of the best for Rhoose under-13s

AFC Rhoose under-13s faced a tough test against Cowbridge Blacks but managed to gain a well-deserved 6-0 win.

In a well contested first half, Rhoose found chances difficult to come by as Rian Thomas' pace and trickery continued to trouble the Cowbridge defence.

Rhoose took the lead when Ewan Heywood used his lightning speed down the left and his drilled shot took a deflection into the back of the net.

In the second half, the game opened up and Cowbridge continued to press, which forced Geraint Booker into producing some excellent saves.

Rhoose held firm at the back with the centre back pairing of Spencer and Stephen Williams, together with holding midfielder Isaac Mcbride, winning every header and tackle.

Tomas Adams' energy and dribbling skills linked up perfectly with Kieran Daw's pace and power on the right and it was Daw who whipped the ball in for Ewan Haywood to finish at the back post.

Rhoose turned up the heat and Tori Brendan-Ireland played a terrific through ball to Connor Booker who tucked the ball into bottom corner to put Rhoose 3-0 up.

Rhoose's passing was excellent and Kaif Rizvi and Connor Booker played an excellent one-two for Booker to put Rhoose further ahead.

Daniel Bacon, Iestyn Wills and Ryan J came on for Rhoose and their energy and battling at the back prevented Cowbridge from attacking, and from this Rhoose broke away and another excellent cross from Kieran Daw found an unmarked Rhys J at the back post where he finished with a tremendous back-heel.

Rhoose finished the game off with Cole Clarke's superb run into the box and his layoff found Connor Booker who poked the ball home for his hat-trick, and Rhoose's sixth goal.

DC

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63 FIAT Punto 1.2 Pop 5-Dr In white, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, ... **Reduced by £1000 to £5,495**
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62 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 5-Dr In silver, 13,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,995**
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59 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 3-Dr In black, 36,000 miles, low insurance .... **Reduced by £500 to £3,995**
58 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1.6 In black, 66,00 miles, very nice example at **£3,995**
07 FORD Fusion 1.6 Automatic Zetec In glacier blue, 33,000 miles with a/c **£3,995**
10 CHEVROLET Spark Plus 1.0 5-Dr In light met-blue, 14,000 miles, low running costs **£3,695**
08 PEUGEOT 207 Sport 5-Dr In silver, 75,000 miles, 1 owner, full panoramic roof .... **Reduced to £3,495**
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A thrilling encounter sees Dinas beaten by last-minute penalty kick

THE 'Villagers' of Dinas Powys lost away to unbeaten Porth Quins to a last minute penalty.

In a thrilling contest where the lead changed hands on 10 occasions, the 'Villagers' were very unlucky to lose to the final kick of the game, conceding a penalty after the referee had missed a knock-on earlier in the passage of play.

An injury ravaged Dinas side, missing five experienced first choice players, met the challenge of Porth head on, with the young players filling the boots of those missing players with great aplomb.

The first half saw the 'Villagers' take an early lead through a penalty by fly half Ben White, and the home side responded with the only try of the game following a rolling maul which was converted.

The 'Villagers' replied immediately as the home side conceded a penalty from the restart and after 10 minutes the home side led by 7-6.

After this initial burst of points there was to be no further scoring in the first half, as the young Dinas pack rose to the challenge and by the end of the half had gained the upper hand against their experienced opponents and were unlucky not to lead at half-time as a further penalty attempt by White struck the upright.

The visitors regained the lead within two minutes of the restart, and this was to be the pattern of the second half as the lead changed hand on eight occasions.

The magnificent front row of Caleb Robinson, Luke Dyer and Andrew O'Malia were destroying the opposition front row and the home team looked bemused as the baby-faced trio, with a combined age of only 64 years, took control of the contest.

Passionate defending by both sides meant no further tries but this was a quality contest between two determined teams.

Powerful bursts by flanker Corey Imperatto and centre Sonny Driscoll were stopped by desperate home defenders, as the Dinas side pounded the home tryline.

The visiting supporters thought victory had been assured as White converted his sixth penalty of the afternoon with only two minutes of play remaining; however the fates were against them as Porth gained victory with the final kick of the contest.

Coaches John Dunleavy and Luke Gibson will hope that this fine performance will provide the platform to build on for the remainder of the season.

The second XV, affectionately known as the Dingoes, were much depleted due to the demand for players from their ranks by the first team, and committee members Andy Vesey and Craig Driscoll were called into action against the Cardiff Quins.

The Dingoes ran out winners by 21-0 away from home, with club secretary Driscoll rolling back the years with a man of the match performance.

The 'Villagers' entertain Treherbert on Saturday, November 28, at the Common, for what is sure to be another competitive encounter.

HJ

Barry and District ladies skittle league results

LATEST results for week commencing November 9:

Division 1: SV Gals (Jo Richards 30) 296, Family Affair (J Davies 33) 273; Special Angels (L Brigham, P Grisdale 24) 230, Family and Friends (R Cummings 32) 262; Space Finders (K Jackson 35) 345, Castle Bandits (L Nash 35) 266; Coppers (D Nesbitt, G Wride, J Hartnell 31) 330; Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy 37) 334; Allstars (C Brewes 26) 250; Bakers Dozen (M Rockett 29) 274; Bobby's Girls (L Bryan, N Toogood 24) 218, Barry Stars (T Johnson 30) 248; Colcot Ladies (D Mansbridge 27) 228, Breakaways (J Watkins 25) 261.

Division 2: Cad Con Fillies (J Rogers 27) 246, Red Admiral (P Peters 24) 238; Castaways (K Billines 31) 283, After Eights (A Jackson 29) 272; Vixens (T Curnick 30) 241, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 27) 246; Merry Makers (C Hatcher, A Hawkins 25) 239, Little Davils (P Weston 29) 248; Rhoose Ravers (G Ballow 30) 226, Witchill Weebies (K Hill 28) 231; Witchill Widows (M Curry 30) 286, S V Lights (P Forrester, D Thomas 32) 312.

Division 3: Rugby Triers (K Brooke 21) 198, Dolly Mixtures (E Peckham 27) 236; Hill billies (G Moorcraft 36) 315, Roller Coasters (J Marriot 32) 320; Persuaders (F Organ 22) 182, Friends and Neighbours (J Davies 232) 187; Westenders (M Davies 24) 202, Fallen Angels (K McInery 27) 250; S V Ladies (C Griffiths 31) 285, La Belles (E Cordy 31) 291; Etcetera (C Stillman 26) 254, Twilights (C Thomas 28) 273; Airways Angels (A Crook 34) 265, Divas (M Pearson 25) 205.

Division 4: Guardian Angels (S Clarke 26) 171, Witches (R Pope, P Cookson 23) 206; Challengers (A Richards 26) 208, Optimists (J Holland 30) 278; Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 33) 279, Living On A Spare (J Harvey 31) 305; Rebels (L Saunders, C Carter 22) 214, Socialites (S marks, J Fumis 22) 218; Uptown Girls (J Marsh 24) 220, Liberals (G Shier 25) 160; Odd Bods (T Cerian, V Jackson, T Perry, G Lewis 27) 266, Hell Raisers (C Davies 27) 259; Aristocats (C Chatwell 25) 214, Nite Outers (J Davies 24) 199.

Week commencing November 2:

Division 4: Optimists (E Playle 29) 272, Guardian Angels (S Ashton 28) 243; Living On The Spare (M Pring 33) 304, Challengers (L Morgan, J Dimond 33) 312; Socialites (F Nolan, A Hicks 24) 246, Witchill Wanderers 221; Liberals (R Keene 25) 197, Rebels (S Oram 25) 235; Off The Rails (L Wiltshire 28) 214; Uptown Girls (A Hobbs 30) 246; Witches (P Cookson , J Caton, O Weighall 25) 256, Odd Bods (G Lewis 29) 235; Hell Raisers (M Nugent 24) 205, Aristocats (T Weston 26) 232.

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Two winners for Evan Williams

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

THERE were plenty of racegoers from the Vale at rainsoaked Chepstow Racecourse last Wednesday and with Evan Williams-trained horses winning both divisions of the opening Dribuild Novices' Hurdle, and Phillip Dando's and Dr Michael Armitage's *Rainbow Haze* the Dribuild Handicap Hurdle, they had plenty to celebrate.

Nansaroy, a five-year-old brown gelding, ridden by Paul Moloney and who was racing for the first time in 242 days, owned by Mr T Hywel Jones, jumped the last almost alongside *Never Equalled* and went on to score by one-and-a-quarter lengths to reward those punters who had taken even money about his chances.

The runner-up, *Never Equalled*, ridden by Bargoed's Jordan Williams, is owned by former leading Welsh point-to-point rider Isabel Tompsett, who is no stranger to racegoers in the Vale. Isabel was clearly delighted with the way her horse ran and when she does manage to win with this son of *Brian Boru,* the cheers will be loud and clear, that's for sure.

Evan's second winner of the day, *Maxanisi*, owned by the Vale's Mrs Janet Davies, was ridden by Adam Wedge who got the five-year-old home by a neck from the odds-on favourite *Champagne At Tara,* ridden by leading rider Richard Johnson. *Maxanisi* was having his first outing in 291 days but Williams, the Welsh Wizard, has a knack of getting the best out of his horses no matter how long they have been away from the racecourse.

Peterston-Super-Ely's Phillip and Kathryn Dando, who bred winning Welsh point-to-pointer *Rainbow Haze*, were quietly confident that their horse would give them a good run for their money and he certainly did, winning by 10 lengths from *Moon Trip* and Mark Grant.

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, who set out to make all the running on the nine-year-old bay gelding, who is by *Rainbow Haze*, *Kristal Haze*, had to surrender the lead after making the early running but his charge ran on strongly in the closing stages of the race to score a handsome win.

Phillip said: "He's not the fastest of horses but he stays all day, and I knew he would be running on at the finish."

Byron commented: "I think I got there too soon, but he went well in the soft conditions."

ANOTHER WIN FOR EVAN!

Llancarfan's Evan Williams sent only one racehorse to Exeter on Sunday and it romped home at odds of 9-2.

The oddly named nine-year-old brown gelding called De Faoithesdream, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, made every post a winning one in the Higos Celebrating 25 Years Handicap Chase and won easing up by some 10 lengths from the fancied Marden Court.

Twenty four hours earlier his Court Minstrel, a winner of his previous two races, had finished runner-up to Rock On Ruby in the £51,000 Coral Hurdle at Ascot.

Mark pays a trip to the Vale

LIVERPOOL FC European Cup winner and Irish legend Mark Lawrenson was recently in the Vale, starring in a sports dinner held at the Vale Sports Arena in Penarth supporting PG10 Coaching.

Mark Lawrenson and Neville Southall. Photo by Julianne Allen.

Also welcomed at the Vale Sports Arena was PG10 ambassador and Wales legend Neville Southall, as well as a wonderful Stereophonics tribute act.

For tickets for further events, and for more information, please email info@pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Vale Girls under-14s reach cup final!

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club had a day to remember at the weekend when their under-14 team qualified for the South Wales FA Cup Final with a 2-1 semi-final victory over Pilcs at Jenner Park Stadium.

This was always going to be a tightly contested encounter with both teams unbeaten this season going into the match.

Both squads also boast numerous players that represent the national and regional Wales squads which set the tone for an entertaining game on the new 3G surface installed recently at the stadium.

Vale started on the front foot dominating possession without forcing clear cut chances. Strikers Erin Prynne and Grace Horrell were a constant threat to the PILCS defence with their pace and power and it was from a Horrell cross that almost gave Vale the lead when Prynne glanced a header just wide of the far post.

Holly Jenkins, having a fine game on the left of midfield, put in numerous set plays to good effect but Vale failed to capitalise and almost paid the price as the visitors went inches away from taking the lead with their first threat on the Vale goal.

A fine cross from the left beat the Vale defence at the back post which found the Pilcs striker who looked odd on the score but a miraculous recovery from Vale captain Daisy Connolly saw the ball cleared off the line.

That was to be PILCS only threat of the first period as Vale continued to press for the opening goal and halfway through the first half they squandered a glorious opportunity.

The impressive Sian Rees picked up the ball from just outside the penalty area and beat two players before striking at goal but a tremendous save from the visiting goalkeeper frustrated the home side.

Rees also went close on the stroke of half-time but her dipping shot from 20 yards fired just over the bar.

The second half followed a similar pattern with Vale on top and pressing for the opening goal. Kate Spargo and Grace Corne battling hard in central midfield and the defensive unit of Rebecca Gentles, Chloe Moggridge, Daisy Connolly and Mae Atkins rarely troubled.

Vale finally got the breakthrough 12 minutes into the second half when some good build-up play saw the ball fall to Grace Horrell who calmly shrugged off a challenge before slotting the ball home past the goalkeeper.

With Vale now in the ascendancy Pilcs started to take more risks committing players forward but this left them susceptible to Vale pace in attack.

The visitors almost broke through down the left hand side on the counter attack but a fantastic recovery tackle from Anais Trinci halted their progress.

With PILCS rarely threatening the Vale goal it came as a shock when the equaliser arrived and it was a moment of real quality.

Lucy Attwood struck a free kick from 25 yards that looped over the vale defence and goalkeeper to land into the net at the far post with 10 minutes remaining.

With the match all square once more it was going to be a test of who had the belief to go on and win the game to avoid extra time and it was Vale who stood up to the challenge as they pressed PILCS back in search of a winner.

It duly came six minutes from time when Grace Corne broke up play in midfield and released Prynne down the right hand side and she cut infield beating the defender before placing the ball under the goalkeeper to put the hosts into a 2-1 lead.

Substitutes, Olivia Townsend and Sophie Hawkins entered play for the final moments of the game which also saw seven minutes of injury time played.

The Vale player's defender with maturity and resilience in the final minutes of the game and Prynne went close to adding a third Vale goal right at the end with a shot that went just wide of the mark.

A great battling display from both teams with a deserved win for Vale who will play Cardiff City Ladies in the final in early 2016.

LW

Welsh Grand National takes shape

THE 2015 running of the Coral Welsh Grand National looks set to be another exciting race with a strong field of entries.

72 horses have been entered for the race, including last year's winner Emperor's Choice, trained by Venetia Williams, as well as Alan King's recent Paddy Power Gold Cup Winner Annacotty.

Champion trainer Paul Nicholls leads the way with seven entries, including the last two runners-up Benvolio and Hawkes Point, while the 2013 winner Mountainous receives an entry from local trainer Kerry Lee.

Coral Welsh Grand National Day at Chepstow Racecourse on December 27 will see opera star Rebecca Evans and male voice choir Only Men Aloud sing the Welsh National Anthem and marks the end of a glittering year for Welsh sport.

Wales' biggest raceday will see Coral Welsh Grand National runners racing for a £120,000 prize fund, while the Coral Finale Juvenile Hurdle, one of only three Grade One juvenile hurdles in Britain, will be run for £50,000, an increase of £15,000.

Other entertainment on the day for an expected crowd of over 10,000 will include the 50-strong Bridgend Male Voice Choir in the parade ring while the meeting will be supporting two local charities, Ty Hapus and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff.

Full information about the day can be found here: http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk/whats-on/fixture/coralwelshgrandnational2015/.

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BARRY RFC SHOW THEIR DEFIANCE AS THE TEAM SHATTER THE ROCKS!

"Stop me if you can"... Barry were defiant in their win over St Peters. ALL PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

AS you may recall, Barry were described as being on a learning curve as they sought to find their feet in Division 2 rugby.

For those lucky to have seen last Saturday's cliffhanger away to second placed St Peters, it was obvious that they have learnt very quickly and are now a team with a good blend of youth and experience who play for each other.

The opening minutes saw the Rocks show their intentions as they spread the ball wide using their very speedy backline and Barry were at their best defensively to thwart several attacks.

Barry were incurring the wrath of the referee and conceding penalties, one of which led to the first points of the afternoon to put the Rocks ahead after 15 minutes.

Barry were struggling for possession, but the little they had was used productively to get them into home territory.

Determined not to be outdone, Barry launched their own backs to test the home defence, with one such effort seeing White stopped short of the line, but as the ball was recycled the same man was on hand to crash over for a try wide out which, with a touchline conversion from Scott, gave Barry a 7-3 lead after 20 minutes.

The Rocks had seen their plan to play an open game nullified by some tremendous first up tackling by the Barry defence and resorted to bringing their forwards into the game and were met by the same defiance, forcing mistakes which gave Barry some much-needed possession and territory.

A chargedown put Barry on the attack and earned them a penalty for an intentional knock on, but from wide out the kick shaved the upright to the Rocks' relief.

This seemed to jolt the Rocks into action and the Barry line was put under extreme pressure for some minutes during which penalties were conceded and finally a debatable yellow card was awarded.

Something had to give, and with Barry a man short the Rocks finally found space on the outside to cross for a try which went unconverted, but gave them the lead.

The pressure continued and another score seemed likely as the scrum half broke on the blindside, only to lose the ball in the act of crossing the line which brought a pulsating first half to a close.

With only seven forwards Barry stunned the Rocks at the scrum by driving them off their own ball and earning a penalty as the half opened, allowing them to clear their lines.

Sensibly Barry were opting to play a territorial game and while this returned the possession to the Rocks, they were unable break through as the quality of the Barry defence and some over-elaboration on their part, played right into their hands.

The attacks continued from the Rocks, and they were rewarded with a simple penalty in front of the posts which somehow was missed.

The character of the Barry side shone through as they began to pressurise the Rocks up front, earning them two penalties, which were not successful from very difficult positions.

With the bit between their teeth Barry forced the Rocks to defend during the next few minutes and brought Taylor and O'Sullivan on as replacements.

At this stage the sides were well matched with both sides solid in defence, limiting the attacking threat they both offered.

Following a yellow for the home side Barry launched a series of attacks but were unable to find a way through, but from a quick break the Rocks got within yards of the Barry line and while the defence held firm, the referee spotted an infringement in front of the posts to give them an easy penalty and they increased the lead to 11-7 with only minutes to go.

Try time for Barry, as they earned a valuable win!

From the kick-off Barry went on the attack with Adams having come on for Lee and Baros moving to scrum half. A charge down by White was successfully recycled and spread wide but with the final pass not going to hand the chance was lost.

The drama was not over as having been at sixes and sevens in their own 22, Barry somehow counter-attacked and although they initially halted the move, spread the ball to the left to find O'Sullivan some 50 metres out who mesmerised the Rocks defenders to cross for a great individual try which went unconverted to give Barry the lead at 12-11, a lead they were not to relinquish and a win their outstanding team performance richly deserved on the day.

This Barry performance should not be underestimated. Playing against probably the best side they have faced this season, the effort in both defence and attack was outstanding and must be applauded.

Captain James Hadfield has the boys playing for each other and the team ethic is there for all to see.

This sixth league win is perhaps more than we anticipated at this stage and we face Abercynon this Saturday, kick-off 2.30pm

Finally, everyone is reminded that the Christmas draw tickets must be returned as soon as possible and can be left at the bar with Carol.

Don't forget that the club's Christmas dinner is on December 19 - details are available from John Williams, who will no doubt tell you about the New Years Eve party at the same time!

AJ

Home league win for Barry Town United

GOALS from Jordan Cotterill (2) and James Dixon steered Barry Town United to a 3-0 home win over Aberbargoed Buds on Saturday afternoon in Welsh League Division One.

The fixture at Jenner Park was a hastily-arranged affair, after original opponents Caerau Ely were forced to postpone their match with Barry due to ongoing Welsh League Challenge Cup commitments.

The match against Aberbargoed was tainted by an injury to Dan Bradley early on, though the club is pleased to report that the long-serving goalkeeper's diagnosis is less serious than first thought and he is expected to return to action shortly.

Substitute Joe Massaro replaced Bradley in the win, recording his third competitive clean sheet for the Town in the process, as forwards Cotterill and Dixon continued their rich run of form at the opposite end.

Both Cotterill and Dixon have scored in every Town match to date on the new 3G pitch (a run of four fixtures thus far) and it was Cotterill who opened the scoring in the 13th minute before stroking home a delicious direct free-kick to double Barry's advantage.

Dixon then converted his 49th career goal for the club to seal the three points, as Barry moved up into fourth in Welsh League Division One.

Among the opposition turning out for the Valleys visitors on Saturday was former Wales international Darcy Blake, previously of Cardiff City and Crystal Palace.

This Saturday (November 28), Gavin Chesterfield and his side welcome Aberdare Town back to Barry, this time for a Welsh League Division One encounter (2pm kick-off), after the clubs met in the Welsh Cup several weeks ago.

Barry ran out 7-2 victors over Aberdare on October 31 and, after the teams collide again this weekend, the Jenner Park side will revert their attention to the knockout tournament when north Wales opponents Denbigh Town make the trip down south on Saturday, December 5.

AC